



PRESS RELEASE

Kentucky Man Sentenced to Prison on Felony and Misdemeanor Charges for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

Defendant the First to Breach Capitol Building on January 6th

WASHINGTON — A Kentucky man was sentenced to prison today after he was previously convicted of multiple felony and misdemeanor offenses related to his conduct during the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Michael Sparks, 47, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was sentenced to 53 months in prison, 36 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution by U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly.

A federal jury found Sparks guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding and civil disorder, both felony offenses, on March 1, 2024. In addition to the felonies, Sparks was convicted of several misdemeanor offenses, including entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds,

disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

Judge Kelly sentenced Sparks on a felony offense of civil disorder and misdemeanor offenses of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

According to evidence presented during the trial, Sparks was the very first rioter to enter the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021. Video surveillance from inside the U.S. Capitol building on January 6th showed Sparks entering through the window and jumping down to the floor at about 2:13 p.m. Despite others' screams of "don't go in," Sparks climbed through a window next to the Senate Wing Door that had been broken by rioters with a police shield.

Once inside the Capitol, Sparks followed a group of men who chased a U.S. Capitol Police officer up a flight of stairs. Sparks and the others pursued the officer up the stairs while the mob shouted at the officer. Upstairs, the officer found backup, and several police officers attempted to stop the group of rioters. Officers ordered the group to leave, but Sparks did not retreat. Instead, he walked to the front of the group and confronted the first officer they had chased up the stairs. He yelled, "This is our America! This is our America!," as he grew increasingly agitated.

Evidence presented during the trial showed that in the days leading up to the events of January 6th, Sparks wrote on the social media site Parler, "We want a civil war to be clear." On Jan. 3, 2021, Sparks posted to Facebook that, "It's time to drag them out of Congress. It's tyranny[.]"

Court documents say that Sparks was well-informed about Congress's plan to certify the votes of the electoral college on January 6, even posing the question to his Parler community, "If we have to have one person from the house to contest the electoral on the 6 th who will it be[?]" In another message posted after January 6th, Sparks warned, "A new dawn is coming. Be ready. Just pray and trust in the Lord." He claimed he was canceling his Facebook account and had "give[n] up on democracy." He warned readers to "be ready for a lot of big events. Have radios for power loss etc. Love every body[.]"

The FBI arrested Sparks on Jan. 19, 2021, in Elizabethtown.

This case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky.

The FBI's Louisville and Washington Field Offices investigated this case. Sparks was identified as BOLO (Be on the Lookout) #46 on the FBI's seeking information photos. Valuable

assistance was provided by the United States Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 43 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,488 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including nearly 550 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Contact

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

Updated August 27, 2024

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

[Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) | [USAO - District of Columbia](#) | [USAO - Kentucky, Western](#)

Press Release Number: 24-695

Related Content

PRESS RELEASE

Facebook Marketplace Armed Robberies Case Ends in Guilty Plea

Elijah Porter, 20, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges from two armed robberies, committed in 2023, announced U.S.

Attorney...

February 7, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Man Who Stabbed His Girlfriend 21 Times Gets 15 Year Prison Term

Devan Green, 30, of Washington DC, was sentenced today to 180 months in prison, for stabbing his girlfriend in their apartment on September 19, 2023, announced U.S. Attorney Edward R...

February 7, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Guilty Plea in Theft and Sale of Hundreds of Government-Issued Phones and Computers Slated for Destruction

Nikhil Parekh, 37, of Randallstown, Maryland, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in connection with the theft and sale of hundreds of government-issued smartphones, laptop computers, and other IT...

February 4, 2025



District of Columbia

Main Office:

601 D Street, NW

Washington, DC

Email USAO-DC



Telephone: (202) 252-7566