



PRESS RELEASE

Ohio Man Sentenced to Prison for Assaulting Law Enforcement with Trump Billboard and Other Offenses During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Monday, December 2, 2024

For Immediate Release

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

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

WASHINGTON – An Ohio man was sentenced to prison today after he was previously convicted of assaulting law enforcement with a Trump billboard and other offenses 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.

Jonathan Joseph Copeland, 29, of Lima, Ohio, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dabney L. Friedrich to 71 months in prison, 36 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution.

Copeland was previously convicted of six felonies, including two counts of civil disorder, and one count each of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers using a dangerous weapon, entering and remaining in a restricted building or ground with a deadly and dangerous weapon, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly and dangerous weapon, and engaging in physical violence in a restricted building or ground with a

deadly and dangerous weapon. Copeland was also convicted of misdemeanors of act of physical violence in the Capitol building or grounds and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building.

According to court documents and evidence presented during the trial, Copeland traveled from Ohio to Washington, D.C., where he attended a rally on the night of January 5, 2021, and then portions of the "Stop the Steal" rally on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, at the Ellipse. After the rally, Copeland marched with others to the Peace Circle, located on U.S. Capitol grounds, where he walked around the downed barriers at the Peace Circle and moved towards the front of a line of rioters behind a bike-rack-style barrier manned on the opposite side by several U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) officers protecting the U.S. Capitol complex.

At approximately 12:52 p.m., a group of rioters, including Copeland, advanced on the manned bike rack barricade. They pushed through the officers and the barricade to move closer to the building. Specifically, Copeland, with his arms outstretched, pushed on the backs of other rioters as those rioters pushed on the barricade. After the rioters overwhelmed the officers and trampled over the barricade, Copeland and his fellow rioters charged forward toward the West Plaza.

At approximately 1:40 p.m., Copeland participated in pushing a large metal frame holding an oversized "TRUMP" sign into a defensive line of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and USCP officers, who were attempting to prevent a further advance toward the Capitol building. Copeland placed both hands onto the sign and forcefully pushed it into the line of officers.

Court documents and trial testimony reflect that the all-metal frame was approximately eight feet tall and ten feet wide, welded with screws, and supported by large casters and wheels that were approximately the size of a person's head. As described by one MPD officer who was a member of the defensive police line, the sign frame was heavy, with sharp metal angles jutting towards the officers.

Also, on the West Front, Copeland began arguing with a photographer within the crowd. Copeland yelled at the cameraman and shoved him several times, and then a group of rioters attacked the photographer and pushed him off a ledge.

Court documents and trial testimony reflect that Copeland entered the Capitol building at 2:25 p.m. via the Senate Wing Door. Once inside, he traveled through the Crypt and to the Capitol Visitor Center, repeatedly waving at other rioters to join him further inside the Capitol building. He finally exited the building at approximately 2:41 p.m. through a window next to the Senate Wing Door.

The FBI arrested Copeland in Fort Shawnee, Ohio on Aug. 25, 2022.

This case was 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 Northern District of Ohio.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Cleveland and Washington Field Offices. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 46 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,561 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 590 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

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VIOLENT CRIME

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