

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

May 4, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Donald Rayford Convicted of Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree After Stabbing his Ex-Girlfriend**

Rochester, NY- Friday, May 4, 2018, a Monroe County Jury convicted 56-year-Donald Rayford of Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Aggravated Criminal Contempt after stabbing and attacking his ex-girlfriend.

On October 20, 2017, Donald Rayford arrived at the home of his ex-girlfriend in the City of Rochester. Rayford stabbed the victim twice, puncturing her lung and her diaphragm. The victim managed to drive to a nearby 7-11 when an employee called 9-1-1. The victim was transported to the hospital, where she also lost her spleen. The Rochester Police Department later arrested Donald Rayford for the violent assault.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

“Donald Rayford nearly took the life of someone he had claimed to love,” said Senior Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Biggers. “The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office and the Rochester Police Department have zero tolerance for domestic violence in our community. With today’s conviction, Donald Rayford will be going to the New York State Department of Corrections, bringing justice and closure to this victim. I would like to thank the Rochester Police Department and Investigator Joel Wittman for their thorough investigation which helped lead to this verdict.”

The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office urges anyone in a Domestic Violence Situation to please reach out to the Willow Domestic Violence Center.

Donald Rayford will be sentenced on June 13, 2018, in front of State Supreme Court Justice Renzi.

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