

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

September 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Michael Caruthers Sentenced to Maximum for Liberty Pole Rape**

Rochester, NY- Today, Monroe County Court Judge James Piampiano sentenced 23 year old Michael Caruthers 75 years to life in state prison for his April 21, 2015 conviction of two counts of Rape in the First Degree, two counts of Rape in the Second Degree, Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, Criminal Sexual Act in the Second Degree, and Criminal Obstruction of Breathing. On August 23, 2014, a 14 year old girl was walking in the area of the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester when Michael Caruthers followed her down the street, grabbed her, preceded to rape her on the sidewalk, then dragged her to a porch of an abandoned building, where he raped and sodomized her. Caruthers was released from prison less than 24 hours before his attack.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck of the Chief of the Child Abuse Bureau.

"Michael Caruthers received the maximum today. His prior criminal behavior allows the court to consider him a persistent felony offender. Caruthers will spend a minimum of 75 years in prison as a result of his inability to control his behavior and make better choices. His past and present behavior indicate he is a risk to the community. Preying upon an innocent 14 year old demonstrates his lack of respect and regard for others in this community, including our children." said Assistant District Sara VanStrydonck. "We commend the victim for her bravery and ability to assist with our prosecution of Mr. Caruthers. We hope she and her family will find comfort knowing their efforts helped remove this sexual predator from our streets."

Michael Caruthers will begin serving his sentence immediately.

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