

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Malik Hymes Pled Guilty to Illegally Videotaping
a Witness During a Murder Trial and Will Be Jailed**

Rochester, NY- Today, twenty-five year old Malik Hymes pled guilty as charged to illegally videotaping a witness during a murder trial in violation of the New York State Civil Rights Law. On November 14, 2016, Hymes was in the audience in Supreme Court during the trial that was being conducted before Justice Joanne Winslow, when he secretly videotaped the testimony of a key witness in an effort to intimidate that witness. He later posted the recorded testimony on social media. But his efforts to sabotage the trial failed as that defendant was convicted of murder. The law prohibits the use of cameras in the courtroom unless the Court approves the use of cameras before trial. Court Deputies monitor the audience during trials to enforce this Law.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Laura Vanderbrook of the Major Felony Bureau.

"Our office is sending a strong message that witness intimidation and the blatant disregard of the rules of the court will not be tolerated. Our legal system depends on good citizens doing the right thing and coming forward when they are victims or witnesses to a crime. This type of behavior puts the entire community at risk and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," said Senior Assistant District Attorney Laura Vanderbrook. "We credit the Rochester Police Department for the investigation which led to the successful prosecution of this case."

Malik Hymes will be sentenced to five months in jail when he is sentenced on February 22, 2017 by Rochester City Court Judge Ellen M. Yacknin.

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