



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Serial Burglar Sentenced to 26-Year Prison Term - Convicted of Two Break-ins Within 16 Days -

WASHINGTON – Douglas Wardrick, 49, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to a 26-year prison term on charges stemming from two burglaries and associated crimes committed in late 2009 and early 2010, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Wardrick was convicted in September 2010 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of two counts of burglary and one count each of assault with a dangerous weapon, destruction of property, and possessing implements of crime. The Court also found him guilty of committing a felony while on release. He was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Anthony C. Epstein.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 23, 2009, Wardrick entered the foyer of a small condominium building in the 200 block of 4th Street SE. Once inside, he used a large screwdriver to try to pry his way into the home of one of the residents. A witness observed the defendant trying to break into the home, flagged down the police and pointed him out. Wardrick was still carrying the screwdriver used in the burglary when he was stopped by police.

Just over two weeks later – while Wardrick was on release and pending trial in connection with the first burglary – he committed another burglary. On January 8, 2010, Wardrick entered the foyer and hallway of an office building in the 1600 block of 20th Street NW. Once inside, he used a large screwdriver to pry his way into an office suite belonging to a small, family-owned restaurant. Wardrick was gathering cash and other items when a restaurant employee happened upon him. He assaulted this employee and fled, taking cash and other items with him.

The employee and a restaurant owner chased Wardrick and saw him enter a waiting getaway car. The restaurant owner tried to prevent Wardrick from escaping, but the defendant used his car to assault the owner and push him out of the way. Wardrick fled the scene, but police found him still driving the getaway car a number of hours later.

In its sentencing memorandum, filed with the Court, the government maintained that Wardrick has made a career of preying upon people, noting that he has numerous prior convictions for burglary and other crimes. In addition, he was on supervised release for a 2005 burglary at the time he committed the offenses in this case.

U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Detective Neil Jones, Detective Donna Wilson, and Sgt. Ronald Wyatt, all from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), as well as U.S. Capitol Police Officers L. Anyaso, L. Lane, and M. Schwalm, who investigated the matter. He further acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Lewis, who investigated, indicted, and tried the case to a verdict.

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