



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Jim Rybicki
Public Information Officer
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202
E-Mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Guilty Plea in Mount Vernon Trail Assaults

(Alexandria, VA) - David Michael Johnson, age 39, pleaded guilty to felony assault with a dangerous weapon in relation to his attack on bicyclists riding along the Mount Vernon Trail near Reagan National Airport. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement following Johnson's plea today. Johnson, of no fixed address, will be sentenced by United States District Judge Claude M. Hilton on December 15, 2006. He faces up to 10 years imprisonment for the assault conviction and an additional 12 months imprisonment for possession of a controlled substance.

According to court documents, on July 10, 2006, Johnson used his own bicycle to attack at least three, but as many as fifteen riders on the bicycle path. Johnson swung his bicycle and struck individuals as they rode past, knocking some riders off of their bicycles. Police officers from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority were alerted by some of the cyclists and police responded to subdue and secure Johnson. U.S. Park Police officers also responded and took Johnson into custody. When Johnson was searched incident to his arrest, bags of marijuana and psilocybin, hallucinogenic mushrooms, were found in his possession. Johnson also pleaded guilty to possession of illegal narcotics.

The case was investigated by the United States Park Police. Special Assistant United States Attorney Evan Rikhye and Assistant United States Attorney Erik R. Barnett prosecuted the case for the United States.

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