



Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KINGS COUNTY
350 JAY STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
(718) 250-2000
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Office of Public Information
718-250-2300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Brooklyn Man Convicted of Assaulting Police Officers in Street Encounter

Jury Finds Defendant Punched Two Officers and Struck One of Them with a Padlock

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a 34-year-old Brooklyn man has been convicted of two counts of second-degree assault stemming from a police encounter that escalated into him attacking two officers.

District Attorney Thompson said, “This case is another example of how a “routine” stop can take a harrowing turn for police officers who put their lives on the line every day. Assaulting police who are simply doing their job will not be tolerated.”

The defendant, Jonathan Truluck, 34, of 568 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, was convicted yesterday following a jury trial before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent DelGiudice, who ordered Truluck remanded. He faces up to 14 years in prison when he is sentenced on June 24, 2014.

District Attorney Thompson said the conviction stemmed from an incident on June 21, 2012, on Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, when Police Officers Shanell Parker and Michael Sommer approached Truluck and his brother, who were sitting outside a high-crime, drug-prone location.

The men began cursing at the officers, according to trial testimony, and when the officers told them to move on they started screaming and drew a crowd. When Officer Parker called for backup, Truluck punched her in the face and a brawl ensued between the officers and the men, in which Truluck punched Officer Sommer in the face and whipped Sommer with a belt that had a metal padlock attached to it.

Officer Parker sustained swelling to her face and a fractured pinky finger. Officer Sommer needed four staples to close the laceration on his head.

Truluck's ankle was broken by a responding officer's baton during the struggle.

During the trial, prosecutors played a recorded phone call from Rikers Island in which Truluck bragged about "whaling on" and "whipping" the officers, and that one officer's blood had been on him.

During cross-examination, Truluck acknowledged that he has four prior misdemeanor convictions, and had assaulted arresting officers during three of those incidents.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Paul W. Vitale of the District Attorney's Blue Zone Bureau, under the supervision of Paul F. Burns, Chief of the Blue Zone Bureau.

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