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## City Attorney Klein: City Prosecutors Fight to Get Violent Abuser off the Streets and Behind Bars

*City Attorney Zach Klein says City's Domestic Violence Unit critical to pursuing justice, disrupting violence and saving lives*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that a Columbus man who violently assaulted the mother of his child and injured his child has pled guilty and been sentenced to 285 days in jail. Marqual Wilkins of Columbus was charged with two counts of domestic violence, three counts of assault and three counts of violating a protection order.

**“City Prosecutors are working tirelessly to get domestic abusers off the streets and behind bars. Victims and their families deserve justice and the safety and peace of mind knowing their abuser is being held accountable,”** said City Attorney Zach Klein. **“I’m thankful for the incredible lengths our Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit will go to deliver justice and provide support to victims, and this case exemplifies that dedication.”**

In November of 2021 Mr. Wilkins strangled, punched, threw to the ground, and kicked the mother of his child. This violent assault sent the victim to the emergency room for medical care. Medical records document injuries to her mouth and knee. The victim was able to complete the intake process with the City Attorney’s Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit to have charges approved.

Then in mid-October 2022, Mr. Wilkins twice violated a protection order obtained by the victim’s mother. These two violations were concerning that Mr. Wilkins was at the protected parties residence, but also that the victim was seen on security footage with Mr. Wilkins.

On October 25, 2022, Mr. Wilkins again violently assaulted the victim and her three-month-old child. Mr. Wilkins punched the victim in the eye while she was holding her child. The victim was knocked to the ground and as she fell the infant hit his head. The victim sustained an orbital fracture while the infant suffered a brain bleed. The City Attorney’s Office secured medical records that confirmed the infant’s injury.

No offer was extended to Mr. Wilkins, and he pled guilty to all charges and was sentenced to serve an additional 285 days in jail, credited with the 85 he had already done, and three years’ probation.

**“This victim, her child and their family are safer now that this violent individual is behind bars,”** said Beth Harding, Assistant City Prosecutor for the City Attorney’s Domestic Violence Unit. **“These are the types of cases the Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit sees every day, and the type of justice we try to pursue for every victim as we work collectively to disrupt cycles of violence.”**

For more information on the Columbus City Attorney’s Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, visit <https://city-attorney.columbus.gov/dv.aspx>

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