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City Attorney Zach Klein: City Prosecutors Deliver Max Sentence for Man Charged in Attempted Strangulation

City Attorney Klein praises City's prosecutors and victim advocates he says are working hard to keep the streets of Columbus safe

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that a Columbus man charged with assault in the attempted strangling of a California woman visiting a family member at a local hospital has been handed a maximum 180-day jail sentence by Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Eileen Paley.

On October 18, 2022, Christopher Hopkins of Columbus randomly attacked his victim in a lobby area, immediately lunging for the victim's neck, tossing her to the ground. Once on the ground, Mr. Hopkins climbed behind the victim and began to strangle her. Within a few moments of the attack, a nearby group of individuals, including nearly a dozen hospital staff, intervened pulling Mr. Hopkins away from his victim as he tried to continue strangling her. Staff apprehended Mr. Hopkins until hospital security personnel arrived on scene seconds later. The attack happened in the middle of the day in front of the victim's four-year-old daughter.

"Prosecuting dangerous, violent individuals is my priority—to deliver justice for victims and protect public safety," said City Attorney Zach Klein. **"I'm thankful for the incredible work of City Prosecutors and victim advocates to keep our streets safe and put behind bars offenders like this who'd attack someone in broad daylight while a four year old looks on in horror."**

When City Prosecutors asked the victim about the attack, she described it as one of the scariest things she has ever experienced, saying she felt her life "leaving" her as Hopkins attempted to strangle her.

"Every day, the City's Prosecution attorneys and victim advocates work tirelessly to deliver justice for victims and get violent offenders off the streets," said Melanie Tobias, Deputy Chief of Staff for the City Attorney's Prosecution Division. **"This case demonstrates our priorities: to swiftly bring cases of violence to trial and aggressively prosecutes violent offenders to the fullest extent of the law."**

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