



Bay Village Press Release

11/19/2018

On November 7, 2018, after a weeklong trial, a Cuyahoga County jury found Yohann Palmer-Tesema guilty of multiple counts of rape and kidnapping in the sexual assault of three women at his home in Bay Village. On November 14, 2018, he was sentenced to 17 years in prison by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Pamela Barker.

The investigation began on November 24, 2017 when the Bay Village Police Department received information that Palmer-Tesema sexually assaulted a young woman at his Bay Village residence after leaving with her from the West End Tavern. Palmer-Tesema got into the victim's Uber, which was supposed to have taken her home. However, the Uber was redirected by Palmer-Tesema to his residence in Bay Village. In the morning the victim awoke in Palmer-Tesema's bed and realized she had been sexually assaulted. However, she had little recollection of the previous evening, including having no knowledge of who she was with, where she was at or how she had arrived.

While this initial investigation was ongoing, a second young woman reported she was sexually assaulted by Palmer-Tesema on January 17, 2018. The victim was friends with Palmer-Tesema and ended up spending the night at his residence after a night of drinking. After falling asleep, the victim awoke to Palmer-Tesema sexually assaulting her. Despite the victim verbally and physically resisting Palmer-Tesema, he continued to assault her. The victim passed out during the assault.

While investigating the first two allegations of sexual assaults, a third young woman came forward reporting she was sexually assaulted by Palmer-Tesema. The victim was also a friend of Palmer-Tesema, who along with others spent the night at his home after a night of drinking. The victim woke up while Palmer-Tesema was sexually assaulting her, but she quickly passed back out during the assault.

The investigation included surveillance video from the bar, witness statements and forensic evidence. Palmer-Tesema was arrested on February 21, 2018 and was later indicted by a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury on multiple counts of rape and kidnapping.

The Bay Village Police respects the courage and fortitude these women presented in coming forward and speaking out against this sexual predator.

On November 14, at 15:30 hours, officers were dispatched to the area of Cahoon and Osborn Roads on the report that a vehicle had struck a utility pole. A black Audi A6 was found disabled with a significant amount of damage. There was a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from the vehicle and the 48-year old Bay Village resident still seated in the driver's seat. He was transported to the hospital for possible injuries received during the crash. Charges for OVI are forthcoming. Cleveland Electric Illuminating employees arrived on scene to assess the damage. The pole was almost completely cut in half and leaning entirely over the roadway. A significant portion of the city was without electricity while repairs were completed. The roadway was not reopened until 04:23 hours the next day.