

OFFENDER CHRONOLOGY: The cycle of domestic abuse



In 1997, Roosevelt Mikell, then 25 years old, faced his first felony conviction of possession of small amount of marijuana. Over a span of the next 20 years, Mikell has been in and out of court for 31 separate incidents. Mikell's long criminal history includes at least 13 incidents of violence and violations of contact.

From 1999 until 2010, WATCH was unable to obtain criminal complaints and other relevant court documents that contained more detailed information about Mikell's offenses and probation violations. The information used in this chronology is based on available public records.

1999-2005

Between 1999 and 2005, Mikell was charged with at least eight crimes related to domestic violence. His charges included: assault in the fifth degree, interference with a 911 call, domestic assault, disorderly conduct, damage to property, aggravated robbery, violation of an order for protection, assault in the third degree and domestic assault by strangulation. Out of the seven domestic violence convictions, the highest sentence Mikell received was 15 months in prison.

From 2007 through 2009, Mikell did not pick up any new domestic violence charges. Instead, he was in court seven different times for charges related to driving after suspension, open bottle, marijuana, failure to provide proof of insurance and speeding.

2010

According to the criminal complaint in 2010, MPD officers responded to a report of a domestic incident in Minneapolis. They spoke with the victim, who reported that Mikell had arrived at her apartment around 11:30 p.m. and had begun pounding on her door. Mikell was the victim's ex-boyfriend. When she wouldn't let him in, he began to forcefully push himself into the door and to yell about a supposed other man the victim was seeing. He also demanded that she drop her restraining order against him. Mikell finally left, but later called the victim and threatened to return if she didn't drop the restraining order. He continued to obsessively call her, leaving over 60 minutes of voicemail messages, which were used as part of the ensuing investigation.

In October of 2010, Mikell was charged in Hennepin County with one count of felony violation of order for protection. A warrant was issued for his arrest and it was not until the end of December that Mikell made his first appearance in

Volunteers and interns needed

WATCH is a court monitoring and research organization based in Hennepin County. It is focused on improving the justice system's response to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect and human trafficking so victimized women and children can rebuild their lives. Its secondary aim is to create a more informed public.

Position description: Volunteers visit courtrooms in Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Ramsey County (St. Paul) and Washington County (Stillwater) to observe and take notes on cases pertaining to violence against women and children. Volunteers fill out WATCH forms that are provided, and turn them into the WATCH office after each shift.

WATCH volunteer shifts are Monday through Friday, either 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., or 12:45-4 p.m.

Online training sessions are required. Applicants must fill out a volunteer application, interview with the Program Manager and pass a background check.

How to apply: Please contact the Program Manager Ellen Sackrison at watchvolunteer@watchmn.org.

There is a link to our application in the volunteer section on our website <http://www.watchmn.org/>. Please complete the form and e-mail it to the above e-mail or send via mail.

this case. In March of 2011, Mikell pleaded guilty to a felony violation of an order for protection and was sentenced in April.

Mikell received 21 months in prison, stayed for three years. The order also included 240 days in the Hennepin County Workhouse, with credit for 120 days, and three years of supervised probation, an order to complete domestic abuse treatment and a domestic abuse no-contact order.

In January of 2012, Mikell violated probation and the court ordered him to complete his sentence. Mikell appealed this decision, and his appeal was granted in October of 2013.

2010

According to a criminal complaint, on October 13, 2010, an officer reported to Abbott Northwestern Hospital where a female victim claimed that Mikell had come to the hospital to find her. The victim worked in the hospital's imaging department and held a harassment restraining order against Mikell. According to the criminal complaint, Mikell had arrived at the main desk of the imaging department and left a note for the victim, telling her to call him. Before the restraining order had been filed, the victim and Mikell had been in a serious romantic relationship.

Mikell was charged with felony violation of a harassment restraining order, but the case was ultimately dismissed in April of 2011.

2011

According to the criminal complaint in late September of 2011, police officers pulled over a vehicle on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis. The driver was discovered to be the Mikell's girlfriend. He was in the passenger seat. The officers discovered she held an order for protection against Mikell. When questioned, Mikell gave the officers the false name of "Frank Smith."

In January of 2012, Mikell was charged and convicted of violating an order for protection, a felony. He was sentenced to 32 months in the St. Cloud Correctional Facility, for which he had 76 days of credit, and 240 days in the Hennepin County Workhouse, for which he had 120 days of credit. This matter was ordered by the court to be served consecutively with the previous case.

2012

According to a criminal complaint in August of 2012, Mikell was charged with felony domestic assault. Around 10 p.m. on Aug. 11, a Bloomington police officer was monitoring "no turn on red" violations at the intersection of 78th Street and 5th Avenue. The officer noticed a vehicle driving erratically on a nearby street before parking at a gas station. A witness approached the vehicle while yelling, and it became clear that a fight was occurring within the vehicle.

"Mikell was in the living room of the residence, and the victim told the officers that he had pushed and punched her. She also reported that Mikell had held her face in a bathtub full of water and forcefully cut her hair. When the

officers approached Mikell, he gave a false name, "Fred White." He admitted that the victim was his girlfriend of eight or nine years. He claimed that he had accidentally hit her in the face with a board."

— From the Offender Chronology

Mikell emerged from the vehicle and walked east. Suddenly, the vehicle went into reverse, striking the officer's vehicle, which had approached the scene. The officer left his squad car and found the victim seated in the driver's seat of the vehicle, her lip bloody and her eyes swollen. She had a cut on the left side of her forehead, beneath her hairline. Mikell and the witness had begun arguing near the vehicle, and the officer approached them. The witness told the officer that he had seen Mikell punch the victim in the face several times. Mikell argued that the witness was lying and that the victim should be

arrested for hitting the squad car. Mikell was arrested.

— From the Offender Chronology

The domestic assault charge was dismissed in January of 2013.

2014

In May of 2014, Mikell was charged with felony domestic assault, felony stalking, and giving a peace officer a false name, a misdemeanor offense. On May 1, police officers reported to a residence in Bloomington. There, they found the victim crying with her left eye severely bruised and swollen. Mikell was in the living room of the residence, and the victim told the officers that he had pushed and punched her. She also reported that Mikell had held her face in a bathtub full of water and forcefully cut her hair. When the officers approached Mikell, he gave a false name, "Fred White." He admitted that the victim was his girlfriend of eight or nine years. He claimed that he had accidentally hit her in the face with a board.

Ultimately, in January of 2015, Mikell was convicted of felony domestic assault. The other two charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to a "durational departure" of 24 months in prison, for which he had 251 days of credit. He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$15,116.89. In June of 2016, Mikell was released from prison.

2017

In June of 2017, one year after his release from prison, Mikell was charged in Hennepin County with one count of felony domestic assault. In the late afternoon of June 4, Minneapolis police officers reported to Broadway Avenue where Mikell was in the backseat of a parked squad car. The alleged victim in this incident was standing on an adjacent sidewalk, crying and bleeding from her mouth and nose. The victim told the officers that she and the defendant had been in a romantic relationship for nearly 12 years. In the previous three weeks, the victim reported that she and Mikell had frequently argued and that Mikell had been making violent threats. The day of this incident, Mikell had accused the victim of cheating on him. He began to punch her while he drove the vehicle. The victim attempted to escape, but the defendant grabbed her hair and punched her in the face and head several times. She attempted to escape through the passenger window when several people assisted her.

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On Friday, Aug. 18, Mikell was arrested in Minneapolis and charged with two counts of felony violation of a no-contact order and two counts of misdemeanor tampering with a witness in the third degree. According to the new criminal complaint, Mikell allegedly called the female victim from the previous case from the Hennepin County Jail several times from other inmates' phone numbers.

Mikell appeared in court for his first appearance on Monday, Aug. 21, the day his trial was scheduled to begin in the other open case.

WATCH volunteers observed the jury trial where Mikell represented himself. On Friday, Aug. 25, Mikell was convicted by a jury of felony domestic assault; his sentencing date is scheduled for Sept. 22 in front of Judge Karasov. A hearing date has also been set for his unresolved case for Sept. 22.

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