



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: January 29, 2021

Re: People v. Derek Dunlap

On January 27, 2021, before the Honorable Robert S. Bowers, Department 15 of the Solano County Superior Court, Defendant Dunlap's two-day preliminary hearing concluded. Defendant Dunlap was held to answer for the charges of Attempted Premeditated Murder of a Custodial Officer, Felony Assault upon a Custodial Officer, and Resisting, Obstructing and Delaying a Peace Officer.



While awaiting trial for Murder, Defendant Dunlap was housed at the Stanton County Correctional Facility. On February 8, 2020, Dunlap was out of his cell pretending to use the phones in the middle of the mod. He laid in wait for a petite female correctional officer to pass under the stairs that separated the phones from the cells. Once the female custodial officer's back was turned, the defendant ran directly at her and grabbed her throat before she could see him coming. The defendant got the officer in a choke hold from behind and attempted to choke her out. Fortunately, another custodial officer heard the commotion from upstairs and came running to help her. Using a baton, he was able to get Dunlap to release her. The defendant then began to assault that officer. Additional correctional officers came running to render assistance and were able to subdue the defendant.

Further testimony elicited at the hearing showed Dunlap was wearing a pair of shoes that he usually did not wear. These were typically worn when intended to fight. The defendant was also found to have a make shift "body armor and jock strap" covering his genitals. According to the correctional officers, these are used when an inmate seeks to protect himself from harm during a fight. The defendant was heard by a number of officers to say, "You were lucky you were there. You saved her life" and "You're lucky you saved her this time."

Dunlap is scheduled to return to Department 15 on February 9, 2021 for Arraignment. If convicted, Dunlap will face potential imprisonment for 30 years-Life, separate from his pending murder charges.

Detective Christopher Cavazos investigated the case. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Julie Underwood.