



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Convicted Sex Offender Sentenced for Rape in Sterling Heights Jimmy John's Sub Shop**

Mount Clemens, MI - In January 2023, a convicted sex offender was found guilty of raping his co-worker at a Jimmy John's sub shop in Sterling Heights.

Paroled in 2022 for criminal sexual conduct in the third degree in Wayne County, Jerome Brown-Pegues, 36 years old, made sexual advances toward the victim. The victim declined his advances. Pegues became aggressive, raping the victim in the storage room of the establishment.

Pegues was charged with third degree criminal sexual conduct (15 year felony) with a second offense notice (mandatory five years). Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor Mark Laws conducted the four day jury trial in front of Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Julie Gatti with the jury returning in 30 minutes with a guilty verdict.

Today, Pegues was sentenced. Assistant Prosecutor Mark Laws asked Judge Gatti to impose a higher sentence due to the circumstances of the assault. Judge Gatti agreed with Laws and imposed the maximum of 10-15 years in prison. Judge Gatti stated, "If I were to impose any lesser sentence, I would not be doing my job of protecting the public."

"The responsibility of justice falls on the prosecutors and judges dedicated to safeguarding our society. With unwavering determination, they ensure that justice prevails and the victims are protected," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the State of Michigan.

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