

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

February 8, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Calli Marianetti  
Monroe County District Attorney's Office  
47 South Fitzhugh Street  
Rochester, NY 14614  
(585) 753-4532

**Thomas Burnett Pleads to Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree for Hammer Attack**

Rochester, NY- On Tuesday, February 6, 61-year-old Thomas Burnett pled guilty to his indictment of Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree for using a hammer to strike the victim in the head.

On August 24, 2017, the victim was the foreperson working on a roofing construction project at a house in the City of Rochester. While working on the roof, a relative of the homeowner, Thomas Burnett, took a hammer that belonged to the construction crew. A Rochester Police Officer responded to the dispute after receiving a 9-1-1 call. At that time, Burnett went into his house, grabbed the hammer and struck the victim in the head with the hammer. The victim was quickly transported to Strong Memorial Hospital for immediate neurosurgery that saved his life. Thomas Burnett will serve 15 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark, of the Major Felony Bureau.

“This admission is the result of the detailed investigation conducted by the Rochester Police Department as well as critical evidence received from the responding officer’s body camera,” said Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark. “Thomas Burnett nearly killed his victim in August, without a thought to the consequences of taking someone’s life. Nobody should have to go to work in fear for their life and it is our hope that with the admission of guilt, the victim and his family will not have to fear reckless criminals like Burnett in our community.”

Thomas Burnett will be sentenced on April 17, 2018, in front of County Court Judge Randall.

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