



**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

Telephone 512/854-9400

Telefax 512/854-9695

MARGARET MOORE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MINDY MONTFORD
FIRST ASSISTANT

For Immediate Release
February 28, 2017

Contact: Nancy Williams
512-854-9398

Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore today released the following statement:

Yesterday, Travis County prosecutors finally won justice for the victim of a brutal rape back in 2009.

The victim had been out walking by herself on Walnut Creek trail, when Jose Hernandez, now aged 24, attacked and sexually assaulted her. The victim played dead to stop the assault, and once Hernandez ran off she flagged down a passing motorist for help. The case initially went cold when no suspect could be identified, but in 2014 a CODIS hit pointed to Hernandez as the rapist.

Despite the publicized issues with APD's DNA lab, police and prosecutors persisted with this tell-tale sample and a scientifically valid analysis helped to persuade Hernandez to plead guilty to aggravated sexual assault, and agree to a thirty-five year prison sentence.

Lead prosecutor Amy Meredith said: "This has been a long and difficult road for the victim, but her strength and bravery won out in the end. She fought this defendant back in 2009, and never gave up the fight to bring him to justice."

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