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### **Hefty Prison Sentences Handed Down in Travis County Cases This Week**

Three separate cases received lengthy prison sentences in Travis County this week.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Judge Karen Sage sentenced Hector Vega-Gonzalez to 15 years in prison after a jury found him guilty in May of this year of Sexual Assault. The sexual assault occurred on January 1, 2016 after the Victim, who had been downtown for New Year's Eve, became separated from her friend and could not get a ride home. Vega-Gonzalez offered her a ride home but instead took her to a vacant house where he used to live and convinced her to come inside and then attacked her, pushed her down, and sexually assaulted her. The Victim managed to place a call to a friend who heard the episode on an open phone line and was able to escape to a nearby house where she called 911. Defendant followed the Victim in his car and, when the police arrived, the Victim was able to point Vega-Gonzalez out to police and he was arrested on scene. Vega-Gonzalez did not have any additional criminal history at the time of the offense.

In another Travis County courtroom, a Travis County jury sentenced Raymond Paul Swan to 70 years in prison on Wednesday of this week after finding him guilty of Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine. During the punishment hearing, the jury heard evidence involving the repeated sexual assault of two young girls, the Defendant's numerous prior penitentiary trips, and his six prior felony convictions. The offense occurred on January 6, 2017, when officers from the Austin Police Department responded to an automobile collision in Austin. Witnesses indicated that two juvenile females left the scene. Officer Brian O'Quinn matched these girls to the description given in an earlier Amber Alert. The juveniles, 14 and 16, had been missing from Montgomery County, Texas since December 2016. The juveniles were picked up in Conroe, Texas and were transported to a hotel in Austin where they were told they would begin working as prostitutes; they fled and were taken in at the same hotel by Raymond Paul Swan, then aged 40. Over the course of seven days, Swan gave drugs to and sexually assaulted the minors numerous times. Special Agents Otto Cabrera and Amy King, of the Texas Department of Public Safety, arrested Swan at the hotel and recovered methamphetamine and numerous items indicating a drug selling operation.

On Wednesday, June 12, 2019, a jury found Dekameron Matlock guilty of Assault Family Violence- Strangulation, a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony. The same jury sentenced Matlock to 18 years in prison the following day. During the trial, the jury heard evidence that the Defendant had assaulted his live-in girlfriend and strangled her to the point that she lost consciousness. Between the date of arrest and the date of trial, the Defendant placed more than 4,250 calls to the Victim in an attempt to intimidate her and discourage her from testifying. The State was still able to proceed with trial, without the testimony of the Victim, due to the solid investigation conducted by the Austin Police Department, the bravery of the Victim's family to provide testimony at trial, and the incriminating calls from the Defendant to the Victim that were recorded in the jail. The State also introduced evidence of prior domestic violence between the Victim and the Defendant.

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