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DESPITE STATE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR 12 YEARS JAIL TIME, VISING JUDGE SENTENCES NORTH EAST MAN TO 18 MONTHS, INPATIENT DRUG TREATMENT FOR 2024 SHOOTING

ELKTON- Retired Anne Arundel County Judge Ronald A. Silkworth sentenced Antonio E. Jaramillo, 25, of North East, on February 28, 2025. The sentencing came after Jaramillo entered a plea of guilty to one count of Assault – First Degree on December 2, 2024. Jaramillo had been held without bond in the Cecil County Detention Center since his arrest on June 3, 2024.

On June 1, 2024, shortly before midnight, police responded to the residences at 211 North Main Street in downtown North East for a report of a shooting. Officers located the victim, Philip Baul of Delaware, on the floor of his girlfriend's apartment, bleeding and semi-conscious and suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was flown to Shock Trauma in Baltimore and treated for two gunshot wounds to his lower body. Baul later told police that he and his girlfriend had been hearing arguing coming from the apartment next to theirs, and Baul had once gone next door to knock on the door to try to diffuse the situation. When the disturbance continued, Baul returned and knocked on the door a second time. The Defendant, Jaramillo, fired nine shots from an AR-style pistol, or short-barreled rifle, through the door from inside his apartment, striking Baul twice on the other side. After Baul retreated inside his apartment, Jaramillo fled the scene with the rifle and was heard yelling that he [Baul] "should have minded his f—ing business." Jaramillo's girlfriend told police that he [Jaramillo] had been assaulting her inside their apartment before the shooting. Jaramillo was arrested by State Police investigators two days later near Conowingo and was taken into custody without incident. The rifle was recovered from the residence of his acquaintance and seized by police. Jarmillo was taken before the Commissioner and while being transported to the Detention Center by the lead investigator, made the unsolicited statement that he [Jaramillo] "should have just killed him [Baul]."

Following the guilty plea on December 2, 2024, Judge Silkworth ordered a drug and alcohol evaluation to be conducted by the Department of Health pursuant to the Maryland Health General Article §8-505, on his own initiative. Neither the State nor Jaramillo's defense attorney requested the evaluation. Assault – First Degree is a crime of violence in Maryland and means that the assault was committed with the intent to inflict serious bodily injury and/or was committed using a firearm. The maximum penalty for the offense is twenty-five (25) years. The Maryland State Sentencing Guidelines in this case as calculated by the State suggested an active period of incarceration ranging from eight (8) to fifteen (15) years. At sentencing, the Assistant State's Attorney, Robert E. Sentman, asked the Court to impose the maximum sentence of twenty-five years (25), suspend all but twelve (12) years to serve in the Division of Correction. The State requested the maximum period of supervised probation of five (5) years following Jaramillo's release from prison. The State admitted photographs from the scene of the shooting into evidence at sentencing, as well as a victim impact statement from Baul.

After hearing from counsel for both sides and the Defendant himself, Judge Silkworth imposed a sentence of twenty-five (25) years in the Division of Corrections, suspending all but eighteen (18) months to serve in the Cecil County Detention Center. Judge Silkworth then ordered the Defendant to be committed to a state inpatient drug and alcohol treatment facility pursuant to Maryland Health General Article §8-507 after he had served half of that eighteen-month sentence, over the objection of the State. An “§8-507,” as it is often referred, allows a judge to impose an alternative commitment to an inpatient treatment facility as opposed to a state prison facility. Jaramillo received credit for the nearly nine months he had spent in the Detention Center awaiting trial and sentencing. Because of that credit for time served, Jaramillo will be eligible for commitment to a treatment facility in a matter of days. Judge Silkworth ordered that Jaramillo undergo five years supervised probation upon his release and complete any further drug and alcohol treatment. Judge Silkworth also required the Defendant to enroll with a “life-coach” program as a condition of his probation. The sentence imposed reflects not only a substantial deviation from the State's recommendation in this case, but also a significant downward departure from the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines' recommendation.