

PRESS RELEASE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

AUGUST 28, 2018

Today, former Community Supervision Officer Derrick Sheppard entered into a negotiated guilty plea to felony Violation of Oath by Public Officer for violating his oath to perform his duties faithfully and without partiality, and to obey, uphold, and support the laws of the State of Georgia.

On several occasions in 2017, Sheppard was on duty as a Community Supervision Officer when he went over to a probationer's residence while the probationer was not home. On these occasions, Sheppard made unwanted sexual advances towards the probationer's girlfriend at the residence. Although this woman refused to have sex with him, Sheppard groped and kissed her. The woman felt pressured to acquiesce to these unwanted sexual acts out of fear for what might happen to her boyfriend if she did not. After several such occasions, the woman finally called the police to make it stop.

Further investigation revealed Sheppard had first met this woman approximately 8 years earlier when she was dating a different man that Sheppard was then supervising on parole. At that time Sheppard and the woman had engaged in a consensual sexual relationship whereby Sheppard paid the woman for sex on several occasions while he was on duty as a parole officer. After several such occasions, Sheppard did not see the woman again for several years until 2017.

While the defendant's unwanted kissing and groping would normally be prosecutable as a misdemeanor punishable by up to 12 months, in light of Sheppard's position as a Community Supervision Officer, and given that he was on duty at the time, our office pursued a felony prosecution whereby Sheppard would face up to 5 years.

The guilty plea was negotiated by Senior Assistant District Attorney Robert Mooradian. Pursuant to this negotiated plea, the Honorable Judge Sakrison sentenced the defendant to 5 years on probation with 250 hours' community service, and required the defendant to permanently surrender his POST

certification and to never work again in any area of law enforcement. Judge Sakrison also denied the defendant's request for First Offender treatment, thereby making the defendant's guilty plea a permanent felony conviction. The victim authorizes our office to report that she supports this resolution and feels justice is served by it.

John Herbert Cranford, Jr.
District Attorney
Coweta Judicial Circuit