



For Immediate Release

Date: February 18, 2020

Re:

Malachi Bay West and Sebastian Francis West Charged in Assault with Hate Crime, Group Enhancement

"As Utah County Attorney, I express my appreciation to the Payson Police Department for their exemplary investigation into these despicable acts. My deepest sympathies extend to the victims in this case, which not only include the victim, but also to those in our county who may feel less safe because they belong to a minority. Everyone deserves to have an expectation of safety. I take my responsibility seriously to do my part to defend our society from these types of horrendous acts." said David O. Leavitt, Utah County Attorney.

My screening lawyers and I determined upon review we are charging the following:

COUNT 1: ASSAULT (HATE CRIME, GROUP ENHANCEMENT), a third degree felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann 76-5-102, in that on or about January 28, 2020, in Utah County, the defendants, Malachi Bay West and Sebastian Francis West, with the intent to intimidate or terrorize another person or with reason to believe that his action 2 would intimidate or terrorize that person, and acting in concert with two or more persons, did: (a) attempt, with unlawful force or violence, to do bodily injury to another; or (b) commit an act, with unlawful force or violence, that caused bodily injury to another or created a substantial risk of bodily injury to another.

Attached is the paperwork filed with the courts and includes the probable cause statement.

Utah County Attorney David Leavitt said that he also, "wants to remind the public that while allegations have been made and charges have been filed, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven otherwise."

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For more information or for interview requests, please contact:

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