



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 24, 2023

Chico Man Pleads No Contest to Assault, Firearm Possession and Dissuading Witness Charges in Connection with Chico Shooting

A Chico man this week pleaded no contest to multiple charges of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, felon in possession of a firearm, and dissuading witnesses in connection with a November 7, 2022, shooting at a Chico gas station.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, **Patrick Dowell-Rollins, 33, of Chico**, was in Butte County Superior Court for a preliminary hearing on his charges when he changed his previously entered plea of not guilty to no contest.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stem from the November 7th date, when a woman and her husband called 911 and reported they had just witnessed a shooting at a Chico gas station where they were filling their car tire with air. When Chico police officers arrived, they found a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his left forearm. But as officers tried to get a description of the incident from that victim, it became clear he would not cooperate.

However, officers were able to retrieve surveillance video from the gas station which showed Dowell-Rollins pull up a vehicle to a fuel pump and began filling the tank. At one point, Dowell-Rollins was seen walking away from his car and out of view of the video. The reporting couple said they saw Dowell-Rollins walk up to the victim and they heard a single “pop.” Dowell-Rollins then slowly walked back to his vehicle, placed the gas pump nozzle on the concrete surface and drove off. Where the couple said the shooting occurred, officers located a single .45 caliber shell casing.

Dowell-Rollins remained at large until November 23, 2022, when a Chico Police detective located him walking in the driveway of a local Chico residence. The Chico Police SWAT team was called and detained Dowell-Rollins without incident. During his detention, Dowell-Rollins was found in possession of a .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun strapped to his chest. The firearm was fully-loaded and was later determined to be stolen.

Ramsey said Dowell-Rollins is a felon and was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

The firearm located on Dowell-Rollins and the casing located at the scene of the shooting were

submitted to the local Department of Justice criminalistics lab for ballistics testing. The results showed the gas station shell casing was fired from the semiautomatic handgun found on Dowell-Rollins.

Ramsey said that despite the victim being uncooperative, the District Attorney's Office was able to file the assault charge thanks to the cooperation of the courageous civilian couple at the gas station who provided critical information to law enforcement.

Later however, Ramsey said Dowell-Rollins, while in custody at the Butte County Jail, made a phone call to an outside associate and told them to visit the couple and their family in an attempt to discourage them from testifying at his criminal proceedings. A Chico Police detective intercepted the calls and talked with the associate, foiling Dowell-Rollins' plan.

Based on this new information, the Butte County District Attorney's Office filed an added charge of dissuading a witness.

Ramsey noted that his office considers attempts to dissuade witnesses to be priority offenses and always vigorously prosecutes such attempts.

Dowell-Rollins' criminal history includes two prior felon-in-possession of firearm convictions along with numerous fleeing and resisting arrest convictions. A conviction for an assault with a semiautomatic firearm and dissuading a witness are "strikes" under the laws of California.

Ramsey said Dowell-Rollins faces up to 11 years and 8 months in state prison when he is sentenced on March 29, 2023.



Patrick Dowell-Rollins