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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Staten Island Man Sentenced to 35 Years in Prison for Committing Spree of Violent and Sexual Assaults against Multiple Women**

*\*\*Defendant Taylor Hawkins attacked six different women at bus stops on Staten Island\*\**

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that defendant Taylor Hawkins has been sentenced to a total of 35 years in prison and 20 years’ post-release supervision after he was previously found guilty at trial for multiple counts of Attempted Rape in the First Degree, Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, and related charges for committing a spree of violent and sexual assaults against five different women and a teenage girl on the North Shore of Staten Island.

Hawkins, 29, was sentenced today in state Supreme Court, St. George, before Judge William E. Garnett.

“This defendant spread terror and fear to our community, preying on five separate women and a teenager as each of his victims waited at bus stops unaware of his sick intentions to commit a spree of violent and sexual assaults. The people of Staten Island will be a much safer place with Taylor Hawkins behind bars as a result of the significant prison sentence imposed on him today,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “I want to commend the victims and witnesses for their bravery and strength in coming forward to help us hold this defendant fully accountable for his abhorrent crimes. Additionally, I am immensely proud of the tireless advocacy displayed by ADAs Rhiannon LaTour and John Signoriello as they prosecuted this case to a successful end and ensured this defendant would never again be allowed to prey on another innocent victim.”

According to an indictment and documents filed in court, the defendant committed his first attack on August 21, 2017, at approximately 6:45 AM, in front of 656 Henderson Avenue, when the defendant approached a woman who had gotten off at the bus stop at that location and groped her as she walked to work. Then, on the morning of September 19, 2017, the defendant led a violent spree against four separate women and a teenage girl at different bus stops on the North Shore of Staten Island. The first attack occurred at the corner of Targee Street and Young Street at approximately 2:35 AM when the defendant approached a woman waiting

at a bus stop, punched and slapped her in the face, grabbed her by the throat, and attempted to take her purse and phone. Later that same morning, at approximately 5:38 AM, in front of 103 St. Paul's Avenue, the defendant grabbed a second woman waiting at a bus stop, threw her to the ground and sexually assaulted the victim. On the same day, at approximately 6:20 AM, at the corner of Henderson Avenue and Westbury Avenue, the defendant struck a third woman in the face as she waited at a bus stop. Shortly after on that same morning, in front of 576 Castleton Avenue, the defendant grabbed a fourth woman from behind as she waited at a bus stop, threw her to the ground, and sexually assaulted her as he stated numerous times, "I'm going to rape you." At approximately 6:30 AM on the same morning, at the corner of Castleton Avenue and Havenwood Road, the defendant targeted his final victim, a 14-year-old girl. As the victim waited at a bus stop, the defendant grabbed her from behind, threw her to the ground, and sexually assaulted her. The victim was able to escape after biting the defendant.

ADAs Rhiannon LaTour and John Signoriello prosecuted the case.

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