

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT  
DOCKET NO. 2381-CR-0173

COMMONWEALTH

v.

CHRISTOPHER C. ALDRICH

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COMMONWEALTH'S STATEMENT OF THE CASE

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Now comes the Commonwealth in the above-captioned matter and submits this Statement of the Case. This statement is provided to assist the court and is not intended to be a bill of particulars, nor does it contain all information known to the Commonwealth at this time.

On the evening of June 18, 2013, a young woman was waiting alone at the South Acton Commuter Rail Station when she was approached by a white male stranger. When she completed a phone call, the man displayed a fixed-blade knife, which the victim described as silver in color, with a black handle; a blade of approximately 5-6 inches; and a tip that appeared to taper to a double-edge. The man pressed the knife against the victim's stomach through her clothes, threatened to hurt her with it, and forced her to perform oral sex at knifepoint. After the suspect ejaculated, he fled the scene on foot. Police responded within minutes, finding the victim crying, trembling, and visibly nauseated. They searched the area but could not locate the assailant. There were no surveillance cameras in the area.

The victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where she was treated by a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Forensic evidence collected from this examination was sent to the State Police Crime Laboratory, whose chemists were able to develop a detailed DNA profile of the attacker. That profile was compared with state and national offender databases without success.

For more than eight years, despite sustained investigative efforts by members of the Acton Police Department and the Transit Police, detectives were unable to identify the perpetrator.

In 2021, Middlesex County prosecutors and police authorities tried a different tack, contacting Parabon NanoLabs to conduct Forensic Genetic Genealogy analysis. This technology can analyze aspects of a DNA profile to identify distant relatives of the source, in order to develop a pool of potential suspects. Through these efforts, Christopher C. Aldrich, a Caucasian male, was identified as a person of interest.

On November 9, 2022, Christopher Aldrich was involved in a one-car collision, when his Ford Crown Victoria struck a utility pole on School Street in Acton. Acton Police officers responded, conducted an on-scene investigation, and lawfully seized a number of items from Aldrich's vehicle, including an open bottle of Fireball whiskey. Crime Laboratory personnel subsequently swabbed the mouth of the Fireball whiskey bottle, and were able to develop a major male profile from the item. The profile from the mouth of the whiskey bottle was a match to the offender profile collected from the victim of the 2013 sexual assault. The expected frequency occurrence of this profile in the population was determined to be approximately 1 in 3.161 sextillion individuals (1 in 3,161,000,000,000,000,000,000).

Authorities subsequently sought and obtained an order from the Middlesex Superior Court requiring Aldrich to submit to a buccal swab procedure, by which a trained officer collects cells from the interior lining of the mouth using a cotton swab. That sample was obtained, submitted to crime lab for analysis, and compared with the DNA standard of the suspect recovered from the victim's mouth in 2013. State Crime Laboratory chemists were able to determine that the DNA standard collected from Christopher C. Aldrich was a match to the offender profile collected from

the victim of the 2013 sexual assault. The expected frequency of this profile was estimated to be approximately 1 in 11.94 sextillion unrelated individuals (1 in 11,940,000,000,000,000,000,000).

Because the menacing of the victim with the knife constituted the offense of Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, in violation of G.L. c. 265, § 15B(b); and because touching the victim's body with the knife constituted the offense of Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, in violation of G.L. c. 265, § 15A(b); the sexual assault is an Aggravated Rape, defined by G.L. c. 265, § 22(a) as a felony punishable by life imprisonment.

Respectfully Submitted  
For the Commonwealth

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By: 

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