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# Press Release

*For Immediate Release*

*May 7, 2020*

## **Repeat Offender Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison For Retaliating Against Police Officer**

**GALVESTON** – A Galveston County jury has sentenced a La Marque man to ten years in prison for threatening a police officer.

On June 12, 2019, Galveston Police Officer Brian Percy responded to a disturbance at approximately 3 o'clock in the morning. During his investigation, Officer Percy located Ryan Rydell Bonner at the home where Bonner's girlfriend lived with her mother.

Officer Percy arrested Bonner for public intoxication and for intruding on premises. Bonner became belligerent and angry at Officer Percy. While Officer Percy was transporting Bonner to jail, Bonner berated Officer Percy nonstop for ten minutes and repeatedly threatened to harm him. Bonner told Officer Percy that Bonner was on the hunt, was ready for war, would make Officer Percy face fire, and that Officer's Percy's uniform wasn't going to protect him. Bonner also said he wanted Officer Percy's name and badge number so that he wouldn't have to look anything up. Upon arriving at the Galveston County Jail, Bonner attempted to confront Officer Percy physically.

Bonner was indicted for Obstruction or Retaliation against a peace officer, a third degree felony. The trial started Wednesday, May 5. Assistant Criminal District Attorney Angela Kao and Chief Assistant D.A. Paul Love showed the jury video of Bonner's non-stop threats against the officer. Assistant D.A. Kao told the jury, "Officer Percy's fear is exactly what the retaliation statute is meant to protect against. In Texas, we want our officers to feel safe doing their jobs." On Thursday, the jury returned a verdict of guilty after deliberating for one hour.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors showed that Bonner previously had eight felony and eight misdemeanor convictions, and had already served time in prison for felony robbery and possession of cocaine. Due to his criminal history, Bonner's punishment was enhanced from a third degree felony to a second degree felony. On Friday, after deliberating for another hour, the jury sentenced Bonner to ten years confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He will be eligible for parole after serving one-fourth of his sentence.

The Galveston County Criminal District Attorney commends the Galveston Police Department for their work in this case, as well as the Galveston County District Clerk's Office for providing safety protocols during the trial.

Cause No. 19-CR-1881, 122<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court, Judge John Ellisor presiding.