

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office  
C. Samuel Sutter  
District Attorney**

**Press Release  
May 26, 2010**

District Attorney Sam Sutter will hold a press conference after tomorrow (Thursday) morning's arraignment of Keith Lake in New Bedford Superior Court. District Attorney Sutter will address the media and take questions immediately after the arraignment, outside the Superior Court. The arraignment should occur sometime between 10 and 11 a.m.

District Attorney Sutter will discuss recent errors in judgment made by clerks throughout Bristol County that either resulted in new crimes being committed or already depleted police resources being wasted. The district attorney will be highlighting a handful of cases where clerks released potentially dangerous defendants back out onto the streets, who then either committed new crimes or had to be tracked down again by police because they did not appear for their court arraignments.

The Keith Lake case highlights this serious public safety issue. Mr. Lake, 33, of New Bedford, will be arraigned tomorrow morning in New Bedford Superior Court on a 16-count indictment charging him with home invasion, armed assault with intent to murder, armed assault in a dwelling, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery in violation of a restraining order, malicious injury to property over \$250, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, threats (4 counts), larceny over \$250, resisting arrest, failure to stop for police, operating a motor vehicle to endanger and placing annoying phone calls.

On Sunday, April 25, 2010, Mr. Lake was arrested for the third time in a little more than a month. He was accused of going to his ex-girlfriend's New Bedford home (in violation of a restraining order she had filed with the court) to vandalize her motor vehicle. The victim, who had been the victim of past assaults at the hands of Mr. Lake, called police and notified them about what Mr. Lake was allegedly doing to her car. When police arrived, Mr. Lake was arrested for malicious destruction of a motor vehicle, and later assaulted a fellow inmate at the New Bedford Police station. Despite his lengthy criminal record and the two other open criminal cases pending against him, Mr. Lake was released on personal recognizance by a clerk who was called to the New Bedford Police Station to arraign him.

Mr. Lake was to appear the next morning in New Bedford District Court for a formal arraignment on the new charges, but instead, he defaulted and a new arrest warrant was issued.

The female victim, though, did appear in court to assist our office in the prosecution and to re-file a restraining order against Mr. Lake. After leaving the court, the victim went home, where Mr. Lake was waiting for her inside. Mr. Lake is alleged to have jumped out from a hiding spot and began stabbing and beating the victim.

It is only after this nearly fatal incident that Mr. Lake is finally ordered held in jail and is currently being detained after being found dangerous during a May 4<sup>th</sup> dangerousness hearing in New Bedford District Court.

District Attorney Sutter will be calling attention to this problem and will discussing other recent cases from other areas of Bristol County, including Fall River, Taunton and Attleboro.