



OFFICE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Emmanuel C. Nneji, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2025

Contact: ucda@co.ulser.ny.us

(845) 340-3280

KINGSTON ARMED ROBBER GETS 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOLLOWING JURY CONVICTION

Kingston, NY— November 14, 2025, Torrel Skinner, age 42, of Kingston, was sentenced as a second felony offender to 20 years in prison for his conviction for violent felony of Robbery in the First Degree and other related crimes. He was convicted this summer in a jury trial in Ulster County Court before the Honorable James Farrell, visiting Judge from Sullivan County. The court also imposed a period of five years of supervision following his release from prison, along with orders of protection and restitution for the victims.

Torrel Skinner had been indicted for his gun-point robbery of the Downtown Cafe on lower Broadway in the City of Kingston on October 10, 2024. He entered the restaurant and threatened the owner and a waitress with a firearm, demanding their money and threatening a "murder" if they did not comply. He fled the scene upon getting their money. The waitress called 911 and Kingston Police Officers arrived promptly. Skinner was identified approximately one-and-a-half hours later in a photo by the waitress who had also seen him at a previous time and recognized his unique face and head-tilt. The police found him two days later. As the police spoke to him in a recorded interview about his sex offender registration status, he blurted out that he thought they wanted to speak to him about the store incident which no one had yet mentioned to him.

Torrel Skinner is a level 2 sex offender and still faces charges for failure to register or verify his address as a sex offender. He was convicted of Sexual Assault in the State of Connecticut and was previously convicted in this state for failing to register as a sex offender. Such registration is required so that he can be monitored and for public protection due to his level 2 classification.

New York trial rules generally do not permit the trial jury to hear or know details about sex offender status unless the court determines that the risk of prejudice with the jury is outweighed by the probative worth of that information as evidence in the case. The introduction of such evidence before the jury without the court's permission would likely result in a mistrial or reversal on appeal. The court determined that the risk of prejudice to Mr. Skinner was too high in this case, so the prosecution was not authorized to mention to the jury his status as a sex offender.

**15 Joys Lane
Kingston, New York 12401-3817
(845) 340-3280**



OFFICE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Emmanuel C. Nneji, District Attorney

Ulster County DA Emmanuel Nneji said that "Torrel Skinner has, since 2013, been committing crimes of violence and violating the rights and physical safety of others in Ulster County and elsewhere. He did not just take money in this case –

he took the sense of safety and security from people who were working to earn a living for themselves and their families. As if his presentation of a gun was not enough, he verbalized "murder" to his victims, forever changing their lives. The court saw the trial evidence and knows his history of disregarding the rights and dignity of others. He chose not to stop himself but now has a sentence that stops him. I hope this sounds a clear warning to others who dare to think and act like Mr. Skinner in this County."

Deputy Chief ADA Paul Derohannesian prosecuted the case with the assistance of Law Intern Kumiko Dabney. Defendant was represented in the trial by Kingston Attorney Stephen Barry.

###