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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### BELLINGHAM MAN FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Jakwan Markuese Horton guilty of one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree and one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Forth Degree. The jury deliberated for approximately two and a half hours on April 12, 2024, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 4:15 p.m.

According to evidence gathered during the investigation and testimony over the course of four days at trial, on April 28, 2019, Horton, who was 18 at the time, and the minor Victim were at a residence on the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The victim went to sleep and woke up in the middle of the night to her pants and underwear around her knees. The Victim told Horton “no” and tried to yell, but Horton held her down with one hand on her neck and the other on her chest. Horton continued to sexually assault the Victim after she told him “no” and to “stop”. Horton sexually assaulted the Victim on two prior occasions and physically assaulted her by shoving her down some steps. After the sexual assault on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Horton threaten the Victim into silence by telling her he would kill her and her brother if she told anyone.

During the investigation, a second Victim was discovered. The second Victim also testified at trial that Horton sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions refusing to stop after the Victim repeatedly told him “no”. During one sexual assault, Horton was so forceful he ripped the metal off her braces.

Shannon Ness, Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, “Sexual assault cases don’t typically have eye witnesses. They don’t have video surveillance or photographs. It is a secretive crime. What you have in this case is Victim’s voice. That is the evidence. Victim told you what Horton did to her. She had a strength Horton was not anticipating and she spoke up about the sexual assaults.”

Horton will be sentenced on June 10, 2024, at the Redwood County Courthouse.