



## San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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Contact: Chief Deputy City Attorney Mike Giorgino at  
[mgiorgino@sandiego.gov](mailto:mgiorgino@sandiego.gov) or (619) 533-5886

### **Hillcrest Attacker Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime**

*City Attorney: Zero tolerance for violence and bigotry*

A man who attacked a gay couple at a Hillcrest grocery store pled guilty to assaulting the men due to their race and sexual orientation, San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott reported today.

The victims, a married couple, were shopping at the Whole Foods market on University Avenue on Saturday, September 9, 2017, when Teeno Hermoso Amparano physically attacked them in broad daylight while making homophobic and racist slurs.

Amparano punched and kicked the victims, threw rocks at them, and hit one with a shopping cart, causing both of them to suffer personal injuries.

The City Attorney's Office charged Amparano with assault with a deadly weapon, battery, and a hate crime. He pled guilty to the hate crime and a battery.

Amparano was fined \$655, sentenced to three years of probation, and ordered to pay restitution to his victims, to stay away from Whole Foods and have no victim contact for three years, to complete an anger management course, and to not possess firearms for ten years.

Hate crimes are more than just attacks on an individual: they terrorize communities. The City Attorney's Office has zero tolerance for bigotry and violence, whether perpetrated because of someone's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation, and whenever warranted will charge perpetrators with a hate crime.

**"Violent crimes against members of San Diego's LGBT community tear at the fabric of our city,"** Elliott said. **"We strongly encourage victims to come forward so we can prosecute these criminals and see that they are punished."**

Supervising Deputy City Attorney Sam Park prosecuted the case on behalf of the People of California.

Victims and witnesses are encouraged to report hate crimes. For crimes in progress, or where medical assistance is needed, immediately call 9-1-1. In non-emergencies, hate crimes should be reported to the San Diego Police Department at (619) 531-2000 or online via the [Citizens' Online Police Reporting System](#). Crime victims can find additional information on the City Attorney's [Victim's Services & Resources](#) page.

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