FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2021

Contact: Leslie Wolf Branscomb at lawolf@sandiego.gov or (619) 533-5896

Man Who Assaulted Women at Beaches Sentenced to Jail

Defendant snuck up on unsuspecting sunbathers to kiss their buttocks

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott today announced the conviction and sentencing of a man who has repeatedly terrorized women on San Diego beaches by sneaking up on them and kissing them on the buttocks.

Keith Lamar Rogers was convicted of sexual battery on Wednesday, Oct. 13, by a jury that deliberated only two hours before reaching a guilty verdict. Rogers, who was already on parole for a similar conviction, was sentenced today to the maximum of 180 days in jail.

"Everyone should feel free to enjoy San Diego's beautiful beaches and outdoor spaces without fear of sexual assault," City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. "Our Office takes these cases seriously, and we will continue to protect our communities from sexual predators."

Rogers, 48, was ordered to register as a sex offender. Judge David M. Gill also issued a three-year Criminal Protective Order to keep Rogers away from his most recent victim, as well as a three-year Stay-Away Order banning him from all beaches in San Diego County. After he is released from jail, Rogers will be on parole through mid-2022.

Rogers, who also goes by the nickname "Peacock Birdman," was already known to authorities when his most recent assault took place September 7. On that date, he targeted a lone female sunbather at Pacific Beach, stealthily approached her, and kissed her buttocks. He was on parole at the time, and wearing an electronic tracker bracelet on his ankle.

His prior convictions include one for sexual battery for a similar crime committed in July 2019 on the beach at La Jolla Shores. The victim in the first case returned to court and provided emotional testimony in the current trial, leading to his conviction.

The case was prosecuted on behalf of the People of the State of California by Deputy City Attorney Katrina Craven of the Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit, which is led by Chief Deputy City Attorney Rebecca Zipp.

The Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office was created in 1988. The unit handles misdemeanor cases of domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual battery, stalking, and child abuse, including neglect, molestation, child pornography, and statutory rape. In 1994 the unit was designated as a state-of-the-art program by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Deputy City Attorneys in the Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit also work directly with <u>Your Safe Place – A Family Justice Center</u>, to ensure victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking, sexual assault, and elder abuse receive the services they need in order to keep them safe. *Your Safe Place – A Family Justice Center* is located at 1122 Broadway, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101. Call toll free (866) 933-HOPE (4673) or (619) 533-6000. Click here to learn more: <u>Your Safe Place | City of San Diego Official</u> Website

###