

## MICHAEL C. O'MALLEY CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, December 3, 2019

## Cleveland Man Sentenced to 3 Years in Prison for Assaulting McDonald's Employee

CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced Joseph Deluca, 54, was sentenced to 3 years in prison for assaulting a McDonald's employee, 48, and a co-worker, 50, in two separate incidents.

"Deluca appears to have an inability to control his temper," said Prosecutor O'Malley. "Hopefully he uses the next 3 years to learn to correct that problem."

On February 19, 2019, Deluca ordered a hot coffee at a McDonald's restaurant located near Clark Ave. and W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. When Deluca pulled his vehicle up to the drive-thru window, the employee handed him two cups of coffee before realizing he had ordered only one cup. When she asked to see his receipt, Deluca got out of his vehicle, yelled obscenities at the victim, and threw both cups at her before driving away. The victim's coworkers called Cleveland Police who responded to the scene and were able to confirm Deluca's identity and license plate through surveillance footage. The victim was transported to the hospital where she was treated for first degree burns to her face, neck, and shoulder.

On June 25, 2019, Deluca struck a man with his vehicle near Broadway Ave. and E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street. After striking the victim, Deluca got out of his vehicle and began kicking him before the victim was able to flee and call police. The investigation revealed that Deluca had targeted the victim, a co-worker of Deluca's, for reporting a prior altercation to their employer between Deluca and another employee.

Deluca pled guilty to Felonious Assault, a second-degree felony, for the February 19<sup>th</sup> incident and was sentenced to 3 years in prison. He pled guilty to Aggravated Assault, a fourth-degree felony, for the June 25<sup>th</sup> incident and was sentenced to 18 months in prison concurrent to the three-year sentence received on the previous case.

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