

Sentence Review Division
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SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA,	)	Cause No. DC-56-2025-0000133
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Yellowstone County District Court
	)	
	)	Montana Thirteenth Judicial District
-vs-	)	
	)	DECISION
WILLIAM CARL VANMETER,	)	
	)	

Defendant.

On March 13, 2026, the Defendant was sentenced as follows: Count I: Ten (10) years to Montana State Prison, under §46-18-201, MCA, for the offense of Assault on Peace / Judicial Officer, Apprehension of Serious Bodily Injury with Weapon, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-210(1)(b)(i), MCA. Count II: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison, under §46-18-201, MCA, for the offense of Assault on Peace / Judicial Officer, Apprehension of Serious Bodily Injury with Weapon, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-210(1)(b)(i), MCA, to run consecutively to Count I.

Count V: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison, under §46-18-201, MCA, for the offense of Criminal Endangerment, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-207, MCA, to run consecutively to Counts I and Count II. Count VI: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison, under §46-18-201, MCA, all suspended, for the offense of Criminal Endangerment, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-207, MCA, to run consecutively to Counts I, II, and V. The Defendant received credit for time spent in pre-trial incarceration as follows: February 4, 2025 through June 29, 2025; and August 26, 2025 through September 2, 2025. The Court recommended that the Defendant be screened for the Pre-Release Program and upon acceptance, follow all requirements and provisions. If not accepted, Defendant would be placed at a Department of Corrections facility at the discretion of the Department. The State's motion to dismiss Counts III and IV was granted by the Court.

On August 7, 2026, the Defendant's Application for review of that sentence came on for hearing by Zoom videoconference before the Sentence Review Division of the Montana Supreme Court (hereafter "the Division"). The Defendant appeared from the Montana State Prison and was represented by Sarah Kottke, Defense Counsel. The State was represented by Arielle Dean. The Defendant did not provide a statement.

Before hearing the Application, the Defendant was advised that the Division has the authority not only to reduce the sentence or affirm it but also increase it. The Defendant was further advised that there is no appeal from a decision of the Division. The Defendant acknowledged that he understood this and stated that he wished to proceed.

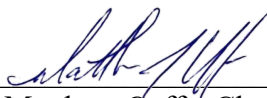
Rule 12, Rules of the Sentence Review Division of the Supreme Court of Montana, provides that, "The sentence imposed by the District Court is presumed correct. The sentence shall not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive." (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

The Division finds that the reasons advanced for modification are insufficient to hold that the sentence imposed by the District Court is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive.

Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence is AFFIRMED.

DATED this 31st day of August, 2026.

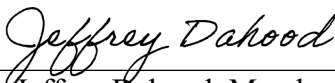
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 31st day of August, 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
William Carl Vanmeter #3040288, Defendant
Hon. Ashley Harada – *via email*
Sarah Kottke, Esq., Defense Counsel – *via email*
Arielle Dean, Deputy Co. Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
Montana State Prison - Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division