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PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011

LOS ANGELES MAN CONVICTED OF CLASHING WITH OFFICERS IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

LOS ANGELES – Following a five day jury trial, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury yesterday found a Los Angeles man guilty on multiple criminal counts for his role in a disturbance in City Council Chambers last May. Deputy City Attorney Brad Rothenberg successfully prosecuted the case.

Following less than an hour of deliberation, the jury found Steve Richardson guilty of eight counts of resisting arrest and one count of battery on a peace officer. Richardson was remanded into custody and sentencing has been scheduled for July 14 in Department 52 of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Richardson could face up to 9 years in county jail.

On May 21, 2010, the City Council was meeting to take up the issue of a rent increase freeze. About 40 protesters refused to leave after Councilman Zine asked the sergeant-at-arms to clear the chamber. As officers were escorting the protesters out, Richardson started pushing civilians into police officers and charging against the officers. Officers then attempted to arrest the defendant when he started to resist, grabbing an officer's hand and burying his nails into the officer's hand. Richardson also swung his arms and body at officers, pinning one officer against a wall, ripping another officer's uniform, and kicking an additional officer. Richardson continued fighting even after being cuffed and taken into custody.

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