

## Men plead to misdemeanors in Spotsylvania incident that left victim with broken facial bones

**Keith Epps**

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**T**wo men were ordered Thursday to serve two years in jail as the result of an altercation outside a Spotsylvania County Target that resulted in broken facial bones for their victim.

Demetrius A. Ragland, 32, of Locust Grove and Clifton A. Bradshaw, 40, of Culpeper, both pleaded guilty to assault and battery and disorderly conduct in Spotsylvania Circuit Court and received the maximum sentence on both misdemeanor charges.

Still, that was far less time than they were facing when their trials began Thursday. Both had initially been charged with aggravated malicious wounding and abduction offenses that carried potential combined prison terms of up to life in prison.

Prosecutor Ryan Mehaffey had finished presenting his case to a jury Thursday when Judge Ricardo Rigual tossed out the abduction charges and dropped the aggravated part of the malicious wounding charge that carried the potential life term.

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Mehaffey and defense attorneys Price Koch and John Mayoras then struck a deal for the misdemeanors and the jury was sent home.

Because the convictions are misdemeanors, Ragland and Bradshaw will only have to serve half of their 24-month sentences.

According to the evidence, Derek DeRose and Jon Atkinson were on their motorcycles when Ragland, Bradshaw and another man stepped into a crosswalk at the Target in Massaponax about the same time as the bikers were coming through.

The men exchanged heated words and the motorcycle club members continued toward the exit. The suspects got into their car and cut the bikers off. The men got out of—and off of—their vehicles and again exchanged angry words.

DeRose testified that Ragland sucker-punched him in the back of the head. After he put up his “dukes” to defend himself from Ragland, Bradshaw punched him in the face, breaking bones in the vicinity of his left eye. Bradshaw is considerably larger than DeRose.

The defendants left in their vehicle after that, but someone got their license plate number and they were arrested the next day. They apologized to DeRose and entered their guilty pleas Thursday.



Bradshaw

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Ragland

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