

EXCLUSIVE: Milwaukee Felon, Free On Bail Awaiting Sentencing On A Dozen Felonies, Arrested On St. Francis Gun Charges

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A Milwaukee man, released after a short prison term for armed robbery, was freed again by a Milwaukee County Court Commissioner on a signature bond despite being charged with up to a dozen new felonies. The man, Dennis Mario Simmons Jr., 22, was arrested New Year's Eve in St. Francis chasing two women with a gun.

Simmons has a hearing scheduled this month for a plea deal on three separate sets of charges totaling a dozen felonies for crimes allegedly committed after his release for his 2015 armed robbery charges. A Milwaukee County assistant district attorney, Jacob Corr, asked a judge two weeks ago to raise Simmons' bail requiring him to post cash now that he is awaiting a plea hearing. The judge in the case, Michelle Havas, denied Corr's motion. Because of Havas' ruling, Simmons, despite his record and all of the new charges, was free on a signature bond when he allegedly threatened the women in St. Francis.

Corr, the assistant DA who sought the higher bail, tells me when he found out Simmons' probation revocation had expired and he was actually on the streets, pushed to get the bail raised. His motion was denied.

I have long argued that the most dangerous people in Milwaukee are gun felons awaiting sentencing on new charges but free in the interim. The signature bond was set in 2018 by Court Commissioner Robert Webb. Simmons' probation was revoked from his 2015 case when he was arrested in 2018 but the revocation eventually expired and Simmons was released on the signature bond set by Webb. That's when ADA Corr sought the higher cash bond and Judge Havas refused to grant it. Her decision could have been deadly if Simmons shot one of the two women he was allegedly chasing in St. Francis two nights ago.

I have obtained a copy of an internal Milwaukee Police memo in which a district captain warned officers to be aware that Simmons was loose and that he was potentially a very dangerous threat. The memo came out only days before Simmons was arrested in St. Francis.

He is in custody now.

Mark Belling

January 2, 2020

