

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 08-420

RELEASE NUMBER

August 9, 2017

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Wesley Meyer, Deputy District Attorney

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**\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\***

**Re: *People v. Hamidullah Sarwary, Case No. 1442831***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that a Santa Barbara jury returned guilty verdicts against Hamidullah Sarwary, age 47, for the rape of an intoxicated woman in 2013.

The conviction stems from the late evening of July 31, 2013 when the victim, a 21-year-old female, became too intoxicated and was asked by a bouncer to leave a Santa Barbara nightclub. A friend of the victim escorted her out to State Street where Sarwary, a cab driver with West Beach Taxi Company, picked up the victim with instructions to take her home. Instead of taking the victim home, Sarwary took her to Shoreline Park where he climbed into the back of the cab and sexually assaulted the highly intoxicated victim.

The jury found Sarwary guilty of Sexual Penetration of an Intoxicated Person, Rape of an Intoxicated Woman, and Assault with Intent to Commit Rape of an Intoxicated Woman. Sarwary faces a prison sentence of up to 22 years.

District Attorney Dudley commended the bravery of the victim for testifying in court, as well as the investigation conducted by the Santa Barbara Police Department, and prosecution led by Deputy District Attorney Wesley Meyer. District Attorney Dudley added, "This conviction will ensure that the defendant will no longer be able to violate the safety and security of this community – or any other." Sarwary will be sentenced on August 29, 2017 by the Honorable Judge Michael Carrozzo in Department 12 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court.

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