

[<<Back](#)

Bail Set At 7 Million Dollars

## **Fernando North Arraigned; Charged In Assault, Rape on Bridge**

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**(CINCINNATI)** -- The suspect charged with attacking a couple after they walked across the Purple People Bridge Thursday stood in front of a judge on Saturday. Judge John Burlew made sure he wasn't getting out soon by setting one of the highest bonds in Hamilton County's history.

Fernando Lee North has been in trouble with the law since at least the age of 18. And Thursday night was just the latest of his alleged crimes.

North was released from prison on November 1 after serving nine months on robbery and other charges. Police and prosecutors say he went right back to his old tricks.

On Thursday night, they say, North mugged a couple after they walked across the Purple People Bridge, first tying the male with his own shoe laces and then going after the woman.

Prosecutors say North raped the female and then forced her to drive him around town, removing money from her account at several ATMs

Making sure North wouldn't be able to post bail and commit another crime Hamilton county Judge Judge Burlew set a bond for North at 7 Million Dollars. Saying in his thirty years on the bench the crime is as brutal as he's ever seen.

"I'm not going to call it animalistic behavior because my animals act a lot better than the perpetrator of this particular offense."

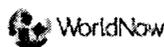
And this may not be the only crime he charged with this week.

Police described another attack. "At that time he had a small black handgun that he brandished on a female victim who was walking downtown. Pulled her into an alcove at gunpoint"

Police are also looking into that assault which occurred in Mt Adams.

Since he turned 18 North has been accused of nearly a half dozen robberies, assaults and thefts. Some involving weapons.

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