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Sun Image 2

Police began an investigation, taking Smollett's sweater and rope and eventually obtaining video showing the actor entering a Lowe's store after the alleged attack with what appeared to be a noose around his neck.

The Osundairo brothers told police Smollett first "attempted to gain attention by sending a false letter that relied on racial, homophobic and political language," Johnson said in February 2019. A week before the alleged attack, a letter containing white powder and a drawing of a "stick figure hanging from a tree" was sent to the Chicago set of "Empire," police said.

Prosecutors said Smollett told Abimbola Osundairo he was disappointed in the "Empire" team's reaction to the letter. The powder turned out to be aspirin.

After cooperating with police, the two brothers were released without being charged.

Several factors went into that determination, "including the extensive nature of Mr. Smollett's false police reports, and the resources expended by the Chicago Police Department to investigate these false reports," Webb said.

His brother Ola Osundairo told jurors that Smollett "had this crazy idea of having two MAGA supporters attack him," and that he wanted "to put that on social media."

Smollett took the stand to lay out his version of events. He emphatically said he did not plan the attack ahead of time and said he paid the brothers \$3,500 for training and nutritional advice not for any hoax attack.

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