

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

December 16, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JOSE TORRES CONVICTED OF MURDER

Rochester, NY- Today, a Monroe County Jury found Jose Torres, 48 years old, guilty of Murder in the Second Degree for the ambush shooting death of Miguel Danny Cruz that occurred on July 4, 2001. On that date, two masked men exited a vehicle one block from the victim, and proceeded towards Cruz who was outside a car, celebrating the holiday with friends. One defendant acted as lookout, while the second defendant fatally shot Cruz four times in the head and shoulder.

This was the second time that Torres has been convicted of this murder. Torres was previously convicted by a jury in 2002. The evidence showed that Torres confessed to friends within hours after the murder, and Torres then confessed to members of the Rochester Police Department within a day after the murder. In his confession to the police, Torres gave accurate details about the murder such as that he used a .38 caliber gun, that he fired four bullets, and Torres directed the police to a spot in the Genesee River where he said he threw the murder weapon. The Police recovered .38 caliber bullets at that location of the river. All of these details of Torres' confession matched the crime scene evidence.

Torres' conviction was set aside in 2016, after another individual, Angel Carrasquillo stated that he was also involved in the murder. In 2016, a Monroe County Grand Jury indicted Carrasquillo as an accomplice to this murder, and his trial is expected to occur in 2017.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael J. Bezer of the Violent Felony Bureau. Bezer said "Torres' conviction and the arrest and indictment of Carrasquillo will bring both men to justice who are responsible for this vicious murder that occurred on our nation's holiday. I want to recognize the hard work of the Rochester Police Department and I hope that the verdict brings some measure of closure for the victim's family."

Torres, faces up to twenty-five (25) years to life in state prison, when he is sentenced before the Honorable Francis A. Affronti on January 17, 2017.

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