

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

September 14, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Joseph Rivera, Jr. Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for the Murder of Heather
Majors**

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, September 14, 2022, New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi sentenced 22-year-old Joseph Rivera Jr. to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections for the murder of Heather Majors. Rivera was convicted by a jury of Murder in the 2nd Degree on August 10, 2022.

On July 10, 2021, Heather Majors was stabbed at least 77 times with a hatchet and taken to Strong Memorial Hospital, where she died from her injuries two days later.

After a thorough investigation, the Rochester Police Department identified Joseph Rivera, Jr. as the suspect in the murder. He was arrested and charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree in September, after being released from Monroe County Jail on a parole hold.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Burak Serbetci, of the Felony DWI Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Michelle Crowley, Director of Attorney Training and Chief of the Grand Jury Bureau.

“The family of Heather Majors has been through a long journey of grief and today’s sentence can finally provide them with a sense of justice, knowing that the man who murdered their loved one may spend the rest of his life in the New York State Department of Corrections,” said Assistant District Attorney Burak Serbetci. “I want to thank the Rochester Police Investigators for their detailed investigation, resulting in the successful prosecution and life sentence of Joseph Rivera Jr.”

“Joseph Rivera Jr.’s despicable actions took away a beloved woman from her family in an act of hostility,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Mr. Rivera’s history has shown that he has no intention of being a law-abiding citizen and is best served in the New York State Department of Corrections.”

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