

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

January 11, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas Plead Guilty to Manslaughter 1st for the
Homicide of Otilia Piros**

Rochester, NY- On January 9, 2023, 18-year-old Richard Avila pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for causing the death of Otilia Piros. On January 10, 2023, the codefendant, 19-year-old Hannah Thomas pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for causing the death of her mother, Otilia Piros. Both Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas will be sentenced to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision.

On December 29, 2020, Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas, who were 16 years old and 17 years old at the time, were pulled over for a traffic stop in Saint Robert Missouri. The Saint Robert Police Department attempted to make contact with their family members, at which point the Greece Police Department arrived at Otilia Piros's house in the Town of Greece for a welfare check. Upon their arrival, they found Ms. Piros deceased from a gunshot wound. Both Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas were extradited to New York to face homicide charges.

This case was investigated by the Greece Police Department, with assistance from the Monroe County Crime Lab and the Saint Robert Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the General Felony Bureau.

“Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas murdered Hannah’s mother without provocation or reason,” said Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland. “This senseless murder not only took the life of Otilia Piros but will also ruin the lives of both Hannah Thomas and Richard Avila. It is the hope of the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office that Ms. Piros’s loved ones can continue to heal from this traumatic homicide that strongly impacted her entire family. I want to thank the Greece Police Department, the Saint Robert Police Department, and the Monroe County Crime Lab for their thorough investigation that led to this admission of guilt.”

“Otilia Piros had her life taken from her in a violent act of betrayal,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “We are pleased that both Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas have admitted their guilt and are taking responsibility for her death. It is heartbreaking that two young people made this permanent decision that also ruined their own lives and tore apart Ms. Piros’s family. I hope both defendants spend their time in the New York State Department of Corrections recognizing the devastating impact of their actions.”

Richard Avila and Hannah Thomas will be sentenced in Youth Part on February 28, 2023, in front of Family Court Judge Stacey Romeo.

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