

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

March 21, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR: Calli Marianetti
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532

Jury Finds Alexander Laureano Guilty of Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- Monday, March 21, 2022, a Monroe County Jury convicted 29-year-old Alexander Laureano of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, two counts of Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree and Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree for the murder and attempted robbery of Chernet Tiruneh.

On April 28, 2020, Rochester Police Officers were called to Chappa's Groceries in the City of Rochester for reports of a man shot. The store clerk, Chernet Tiruneh, was found dead from the shooting. With help from the community, the Rochester Police Department conducted a detailed and thorough investigation.

In March 2021, Alexander Laureano was identified and arrested for the attempted robbery and murder of Chernet Tiruneh, eleven months after the homicide. Laureano held the victim at gunpoint and demanded money while Chernet was behind the counter. Chernet Tiruneh reached for his legally registered firearm and Laureano shot and killed him.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau and Senior Assistant District Attorney Kristin Sippel, also of the Major Felony Bureau.

"After two years, today's conviction provides justice for Chernet Tiruneh's friends, family and the community he served," said Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan. "The past years have been traumatic for Mr. Tiruneh's family and they can rest assured today knowing that the man responsible for Chernet's death faces a life sentence. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department and the community who supported Chernet for not giving up on this investigation, resulting in the successful prosecution of Alexander Laureano."

"Chernet Tiruneh, was a staple and cherished member of this community, especially in the Beechwood neighborhood," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Chernet immigrated from Ethiopia and worked at his store every single day to provide for his family. Alexander Laureano's despicable actions took away a beloved and hardworking man from his family for a quick attempt at money."

Alexander Laureano will be sentenced on May 9, 2022, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano.

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