

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

May 23, 2023

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

Juan Rivera Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree and Arson in the 4th Degree

Rochester, NY- On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 49-year-old Juan Rivera pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree and Arson in the 4th Degree for the stabbing death of Maribel Diaz and the arson of his residence.

On the night of June 17, 2022, Rochester Police Officers were called to Suntru Street around 10:30PM, where they found 35-year-old Maribel Diaz stabbed to death inside her vehicle. Rochester Police Officers searched for Mirabel's estranged husband, Juan Rivera, and located him at his residence on McNaughton Street during the early hours of June 18, 2022. Upon arriving at the house, which was owned by the defendant's parents, Juan Rivera set fire to the house, where at least eleven animals died.

Juan Rivera fled the house and was transported to Strong Memorial Hospital. He was arrested for the arson and the homicide of Maribel Diaz.

Juan Rivera will be sentenced to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision for the homicide, consecutive to 1-3 years in the New York State Department of Corrections for the arson.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

"Mirabel Diaz was beginning to gain her independence from a controlling and toxic marriage before Juan Rivera took her life," said Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher. "The defendant stabbed and killed a woman he claimed to love, before abandoning her body. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Fire Department for their thorough investigation that led to the quick arrest of Juan Rivera. With this guilty plea, it is our hope that Maribel Diaz's family can move forward knowing that her killer is incarcerated."

“Juan Rivera is every woman’s worst nightmare,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Mirabel Diaz was only 35 years old and was beginning to live her life away from Juan Rivera for the first time in two decades. She wanted to feel safe from her estranged husband but Juan Rivera would not accept this and violently took her life. If you, or someone you know, feels trapped in a domestic violence situation, please have them call law enforcement or the 24/7 Willow Domestic Violence Center hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.”

Juan Rivera will be sentenced on July 18, 2023, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair.

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