

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

August 10, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jury Finds Joseph Rivera, Jr. Guilty of Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, August 10, 2022, a Monroe County Jury convicted 22-year-old Joseph Rivera Jr. of Murder in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Heather Majors.

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.

“Over a year later, today’s conviction can finally provide justice for Heather Major’s friends and family,” said Assistant District Attorney Burak Serbetci. “The past years have been traumatic for Ms. Major’s family and they can rest assured today knowing that the man responsible for her death faces a life sentence. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their detailed investigation, resulting in the successful prosecution of Joseph Rivera Jr.”

“Heather Majors was a daughter, a sister, and a friend, and her life was brutally taken in an act of violence,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Joseph Rivera Jr.’s despicable actions took away a beloved woman from her family in an act of hostility. 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.”

Joseph Rivera Jr. will be sentenced on September 14, 2022, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi.

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