

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

May 23, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alexander Laureano Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for the Murder of Chernet Tiruneh

Rochester, NY- On Monday, May 23, 2022, New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano sentenced 29-year-old Alexander Laureano to 25 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections. This sentence comes after a jury convicted 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, eleven months after the homicide, Laureano was identified and arrested for the attempted robbery and murder of Chernet Tiruneh. 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.

"Thank you to the Rochester Police Department for their thorough investigation on this case," said Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan. "I hope Mr. Tiruneh's family and the community can find solace with the knowledge that Alexander Laureano received the maximum sentence."

"Chernet Tiruneh, was a cherished member of this community. His senseless murder deserved justice," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Chernet came to this country and worked tirelessly for his family and his community. Alexander Laureano had no regard for the law when he brutally took the life of a beloved community member for a quick attempt at money."

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