

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

March 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Wilberto Melendez-Ortega Convicted of Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree &  
Robbery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree**

Rochester, NY- Friday, March 13, 2020, a Monroe County Jury convicted 41-year-old Wilberto Melendez-Ortega of Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Robbery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for robbing a convenience store on N. Clinton Avenue with a knife.

On October 1, 2019, Wilberto Melendez-Ortega and his co-defendant Luis Torres-Matos entered a convenience store on N. Clinton Avenue in the City of Rochester. Both defendants threatened the 16-year-old register employee with knives and stole cash from the register. The employee immediately called 9-1-1.

The Rochester Police Department located both defendants within minutes based on their description. Both ran from the police but were quickly apprehended and arrested by the Rochester Police Department. Luis Torres-Matos pled guilty to Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree on March 5, 2020, he will face 13 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Houck, of the Major Felony Bureau.

“I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their quick response time that led to the apprehension of Melendez-Ortega and Torres-Matos,” said Assistant District Attorney Michael Houck. “Both of these men are violent predicate felony offenders and our community is safer with these offenders in the New York State Department of Corrections.”

“Today’s jury verdict proves that Wilberto Melendez-Ortega is a violent offender who is better served in the New York State Department of Corrections,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Threatening a 16-year-old who is attempting to do their job shows the true character of the two defendants. Thank you to the Rochester Police Department and everyone involved in this case who helped secure justice today.”

Wilberto Melendez-Ortega will be sentenced on April 21, 2020, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Sinclair. He faces 10-25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

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