

# Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

November 19, 2021



## Contact Us

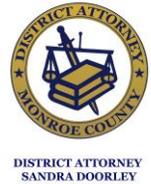
Monroe County District  
Attorney's Office

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# Monroe County District Attorney's Office

## Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

### Message from Sandra Doorley

*We Are Stronger Together*

*After last week's newsletter, where I upsettingly discussed the record number of homicides, we had four more, bringing the total to 75 in the City of Rochester and 83 in Monroe County.*

*Of the 75 homicides in our city, the overwhelming majority have been shootings. Over 70% of the city homicides have been firearm-related, 12% are stabbings, and 15% are through other means (vehicular assault, arson, etc.).*

*How many of the 75 homicides could have been avoided, how many of the 381 shooting victims (as of 11/16/21) this year would have not sustained injuries if illegal weapons were not rampant on our streets? Every illegal gun in our city right now is one more potential shooting victim, one more potential homicide victim.*

*We are stronger together, cheesy, but true. On Wednesday, for the first time in a very long time, I was pleased to sit with a range of local and law enforcement leaders to talk about the tragedies we are seeing. I joined Mayor-Elect Malik Evans, Interim Police-Chief Dave Smith, U.S. Attorney for the Western District Trini Ross, County Executive Adam Bello and many representatives from local law enforcement and government. For the first time this year, I am optimistic.*

*We shared our visions for the city and discussed what each of us can do for the rising violence afflicting our community. We all know that this takes a multi-faceted approach from our schools to the criminal justice system to our legislature.*

*I will again make another plea to the community. We need you to come forward. We cannot begin to curb this violence without your assistance in court. Keeping your families safe is our top priority as law enforcement.*

*We are stronger together. We are working for you. We will do everything in our power to stop the violence for you.*

*Sandra*

# Homicide Update

So far in 2021:

City of Rochester Total: 75

Monroe County Total: 83

## Highlights from the MCDA's Office

**Mark Hathaway** pled guilty to Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> on November 16, 2021. He admitted to using a dating app to lure men to meet them and rob them at knifepoint. He will be sentenced to 10 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of Post-Release Supervision as a predicate violent felon. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Constance Patterson, of the Major Felony Bureau.

**Taj McMillan-Harris** was indicted on Manslaughter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, three counts of Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Operator Leave Scene of Incident Resulting in Death, and three counts of Operator Leave Scene of Incident Resulting in Serious Physical Injury. These charges are in relation to the vehicular death of Tishara Pugh on October 17, 2021. This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the DWI Bureau.

**Steven Owens** was arraigned in front of Rochester City Court Judge Lopez for Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree in relation to the homicide of his son, Malcolm Owens. He is being held without bail at this time. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Deputy Chief of the Local Courts Bureau.

**Vone Xaysongkham** was indicted on Vehicular Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Vehicular Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, and Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated. These charges are in relation to a vehicular assault that occurred on July 29, 2021. This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Eric Hurd, of the DWI Bureau.

**Nicholas Deleon** was arraigned on Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and two counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Police officer. These charges are in relation to the homicide of Christian Santiago on October 20, 2021, and shooting events that occurred on October 21, 2021. Bail was set at \$250,000 cash, \$750,000 insurance company bond and \$1,500,000 partially secured bond. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

**Mary Brown** was indicted on two counts of Arson in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Criminal Contempt in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Criminal Mischief in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree in relation to events occurring on September 27, 2021, and February 9, 2021. This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Drew Kroft, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

**Cleophus Cleveland** was indicted on two counts of Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Aggravated Criminal Contempt, Aggravated Family Offense, and two counts of Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.



## MCDA in the Community

Members of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office helped to wrap gifts for deployed service members through Full Circle Home, a non-profit that helps to connect deployed service members with their loved ones back home by delivering hand-wrapped gifts and personal notes. The volunteers wrapped 400 gifts, thank you to Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher for organizing!

Assistant District Attorney Julie Hahn, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau, represented the Monroe County District Attorney's Office at a press conference hosted by the Rochester Police Department addressing the violence plaguing the City of Rochester.

## MCDA in the News

<https://www.wxxinews.org/local-news/2021-11-17/mayor-elect-evans-gives-update-on-violence-plans-for-transition>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/crime/2021/11/15/man-charged-with-killing-son-on-pioneer-street-in-rochester-pleads-not-guilty>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/family-mourning-man-killed-outside-rochester-bus-station-brothers-charged-with-murder/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/mayor-warren-declares-state-of-emergency-to-combat-violence-in-rochester/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-indicted-by-grand-jury-in-crash-that-killed-mom-of-five>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/11/18/angeli-na-griffin-found-not-guilty-of-murder-in-deadly-brighton-ny-hit-and-run/8663487002/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rochester-man-indicted-for-manslaughter-in-fatal-stolen-vehicle-crash-on-seward-street/>



<https://13wham.com/news/local/rpd-looking-for-armed-and-dangerous-man-accused-of-slaying-son>



## Welcome to the DA's Office!

Welcome to our newest Assistant District Attorney, Kaylee Rizzari! Keep an eye out for ADA Rizzari in Gates and Ogden Town Courts. Welcome, Kaylee!



## Congratulations Julie!

Congratulations to Assistant District Attorney Julie Hahn, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau, on her election to Monroe County Court Judge! Julie will be leaving the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and will take over as Judge Hahn on January 1!

**WE'RE HIRING**

We are hiring attorneys and support staff! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on [monroecounty.gov/da](http://monroecounty.gov/da).