

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

August 25, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Gabriel Cruz Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree for the Drive-By
Shooting Death of Enrique Vellon**

Rochester, NY- On Friday, August 25, a Monroe County Jury convicted 27-year-old Gabriel Cruz of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree and Assault in the 2nd Degree for the death of 37-year-old Enrique Vellon. 27-year-old Joseph Hulsizer pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree on August 14, 2017, for the same crime. With his plea, Joseph Hulsizer agreed to 18 to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections.

On the afternoon of January 6, 2017, Joseph Hulsizer was driving a vehicle with Gabriel Cruz in the passenger seat on East Ridge Road in Irondequoit. After seeing a Dodge Caravan with Enrique Vellon in the passenger seat, gun shots were fired from the vehicle with Cruz and Hulsizer on the busy street in broad daylight. The bullets hit and killed Enrique Vellon and injured the driver, both victims were known to Cruz and Hulsizer. Later that week, the Irondequoit Police Department arrested Joseph Hulsizer and four days later arrested Gabriel Cruz.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano and Senior Assistant District Attorney Greg Clark, both of the Special Investigations Bureau.

“Today’s verdict would not have been possible without the incredible work of the Irondequoit Police Department and the New York State Police,” said Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano. “Gabriel Cruz and Joseph Hulsizer recklessly took the life of Enrique Vellon at the same time, risking the lives of complete strangers who were going about their daily business. Thanks to the witnesses driving along East Ridge Road, Gabriel Cruz and Joseph Hulsizer will both be spending a very long time in prison for their violent and careless actions against the victims and community.”

Gabriel Cruz will be sentenced on October 4, 2017, in front of State Supreme Court Justice Renzi.

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