

OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michael Garcia Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for the Homicide of Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero

Rochester, NY – On Friday, July 17, 2026, Monroe County Court Judge Caroline Morrison sentenced 19-year-old Michael Garcia to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. He was previously convicted by a jury of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the murder of 17-year-old Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero and the shooting and attempted murder of a Rochester man.

On April 30, 2025, shortly after 1:40 AM, Rochester Police Officers responded to a shooting outside a house on Alphonse Street in the City of Rochester. Upon arrival, a man was found with multiple gunshot wounds, and 17-year-old Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero was located inside the residence with at least one gunshot wound to her head. Both victims were immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero died from her injuries. The second victim survived his injuries.

After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department's Major Crimes Unit, it was determined that Michael Garcia targeted the specific home due to a previous conflict. A confrontation began outside the home when the defendant started firing rounds from his illegally possessed firearm. Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero was not the intended target and was struck by the gunfire.

Following the shooting, Michael Garcia fled the scene. A Brockport Police Officer recognized the vehicle linked to the incident on North Main Street in the Village of Brockport. Michael Garcia was apprehended at that time by the Rochester Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics team, Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies, and the Brockport Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers, of the Special Victim Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

"Today's sentence ensures that Michael Garcia will spend decades in prison for his deliberate and senseless acts of violence," said Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers. "Danyelisse Pabon-Cubero was only 17 years old when she was killed by gunfire intended for someone else. She never had the opportunity to graduate, build a career, or experience the future that was stolen from her. The defendant's willingness to fire multiple rounds into a home forever shattered countless lives and left another victim with life-altering injuries. This sentence cannot restore what was taken, but it sends a clear message that this level of violence will be met with a life sentence in the New York State Department of Corrections. I hope Danyelisse's family can find some measure of peace knowing that they can continue their grief outside the criminal justice system."

"Michael Garcia made the decision to settle a conflict with gunfire, and an innocent 17-year-old lost her life because of it," said Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green. "When individuals choose to bring violence into our neighborhoods, innocent people too often pay the price. Today's sentence reflects the seriousness of that choice and ensures this defendant will face the consequences for years to come. I am grateful to Assistant District Attorneys Kenisha Flowers and Patrick Gallagher for their exceptional work, and I thank the Rochester Police Department, Brockport Police Department, and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for their investigation."

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