

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

August 24, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Luis Nieves Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree for the Death of  
Nicholas Welsher**

Rochester, NY- On Thursday, August 24, a Monroe County Jury convicted 53-year-old Luis Nieves of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Conspiracy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree for the death of 27-year-old Nicholas Welsher. 29-year-old Brandon Thornton pled guilty to Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree on August 14, 2017 for the same crime. With his plea, Brandon Thornton agreed to 18 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections.

After orchestrating the drug related robbery of Nicholas Welsher, Luis Nieves provided Brandon Thornton with a loaded hand gun and drove him to the area of Lyceum Street on July 22, 2016. When Brandon Thornton approached Nicholas Welsher and attempted to rob him, the victim ran and Brandon Thornton shot Nicholas in the back of the head. After a thorough investigation, the Rochester Police Department arrested Luis Nieves and Brandon Thornton in October 2016.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher of the Major Felony Bureau and Senior Assistant District Attorney Cassie Kocher of the Special Investigations Bureau.

"Today's conviction is the result of an outstanding investigation conducted by the Rochester Police Department," said Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher. "Together, Luis Nieves and Brandon Thornton ruthlessly took the life of Nicholas Welsher. This was a cold and calculated crime that resulted in the unnecessary death of a young man. Nieves and Thornton will both spend a very long time in prison because of their violent actions and it is our hope that today's conviction can bring closure to Nicholas's friends and family."

Luis Nieves will be sentenced on September 29, 2017, and Brandon Thornton will be sentenced on September 26, 2017, in front of County Court Judge Randall.

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