

OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rahjule Keeton Sentenced to 25 Years to life for the Homicide of James Hallenbeck

Rochester, NY- On Thursday, July 9, 2026, New York State Supreme Court Justice Victoria Argento sentenced 22-year-old Rahjule Keeton 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, Robbery in the 1st Degree, and Robbery in the 2nd Degree for the murder James Hallenbeck.

On August 21, 2022, at approximately 1:45AM, Rochester Police Officers responded to Olean Street near Coretta Scott Crossing for reports of a shooting. Upon arrival, 29-year-old James Hallenbeck was found deceased with a gunshot wound and blunt force trauma after a robbery.

Rochester Police Investigators spent the following years meticulously going through hundreds of hours of footage, scouring evidence, and building a criminal case. After a thorough and exhaustive investigation, it was determined that Rahjule Keeton saw James Hallenbeck taking a late-night walk. Keeton and a co-conspirator then proceeded to rob, shoot, and kill James before fleeing in a vehicle.

Following identification of Rahjule Keeton, an indictment was unsealed charging him with James Hallenbeck's murder. He was apprehended in November 2025 by the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

“James Hallenbeck was simply taking a late-night walk when his life was stolen through a senseless act of violence,” said Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante. “The sentence imposed today ensures that Rahjule Keeton will be held accountable for robbing and murdering an innocent man. This case is a testament to the extraordinary dedication of the Rochester Police Department investigators and technicians, who spent years meticulously reviewing evidence and pursuing every lead to identify the defendant. I also want to recognize James’ parents for their unwavering strength and resilience throughout this long process. While no sentence can restore James to those who loved him, we hope today brings a measure of justice and allows his family to move forward knowing the person responsible is being held accountable.”

“Today’s sentence reflects the seriousness of this defendant’s violent actions,” said Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green. “Because of the persistence of the Rochester Police Department and the outstanding prosecution by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, Rahjule Keeton is being held accountable for taking the life of James. While nothing can erase the profound loss suffered by James’ family and friends, we hope this sentence provides them with some measure of peace.”

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