OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

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Richard Leo Sentenced to 20 Years to Life for the Murder of Daniel Fiero

Rochester, N.Y. – On Tuesday, November 17, 2026, New York Supreme Court Justice Stephen Miller sentenced 37-year-old Richard Leo to 20 years to life for the murder of Daniel Fiero. In October of 2026, Leo pleaded guilty to one count of Murder in the 2nd Degree.

At 2:52PM, on January 31, 2026, Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an extended stay hotel in the Town of Henrietta for reports of a dispute coming from inside one of the rooms. Upon arrival, officers discovered 37-year-old Richard Leo with blood on him. He was detained by deputies. As Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies made their way further into the room, they located 40-year-old Daniel Fiero, deceased from multiple stab wounds.

Following a thorough investigation, Monroe County Sheriff Deputies determined that in December 2025, Daniel Fiero was a truck driver who saw Richard Leo walking on the side of the road in the cold. After offering the defendant a ride, Daniel Fiero learned that Richard Leo was a homeless veteran. Daniel Fiero made sure that Richard Leo was fed and with shelter for the following month.

On January 31, 2026, Richard Leo violently attacked Daniel Fiero out of anger. The victim died from extreme injuries to his head, face and body, including over 40 separate knife wounds.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Kaitlin Hastings, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

"Helping a stranger in need shouldn't result in the loss of life," said Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher. "It's unfortunate that Richard Leo repaid the victim, Mr. Fiero with brutal

violence. The overwhelming evidence and horrific actions of the defendant provided to New York Supreme Court Justice Miller prompted his sentencing decision, which ensures Richard Leo will never harm another person. Through justice served in this case, I hope the victim's family and the community can remember Daniel Fiero for the kind-hearted person he was and honor his memory by continuing to show kindness to others."

"Through darkness, justice prevails. I'm grateful that the truth was brought to light in this case, holding Richard Leo accountable for the life he took," said Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green. "The countless hours of dedication by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and Assistant District Attorneys Patrick Gallagher and Kaitlin Hastings don't go unnoticed. Their efforts ensured justice for Daniel Fiero and his loved ones, but also removed a dangerous criminal from our streets, and our communities are safer for it."

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