

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Antonio Ortiz Jr. Sentenced to 24 Years to Life

Rochester, NY- Today, Monroe County Court Judge John DeMarco sentenced 44 year old Antonio Ortiz Jr. to 24 Years to Life for the fatal stabbing of his girlfriend's roommate, 64 year old William Fergus, in the early morning hours of April 4th. On that date, Ortiz entered the apartment that his girlfriend shared with the victim located at 501 Seneca Manor Drive and stabbed him 46 times after stealing two flat screen televisions from the premises. Ortiz then took the victim's wallet and cell phone. Later that day, the defendant was apprehended by officers of the Rochester Police Department when they spotted Ortiz driving his girlfriend's car. Security footage from local retailers would later show Ortiz using the victims credit and debit cards prior to his arrest.

At his October trial, Ortiz, who took the stand in his own defense, attempted to claim that he killed Fergus during a drug induced hallucination. Prosecutors, however, were able to demonstrate that Ortiz's behavior both before and after the murder were not consistent with his claims of being incapacitated by narcotics. Ortiz was subsequently found guilty of Murder in the Second Degree.

The case was prosecuted for the People by Bureau Chiefs Michelle Crowley and Elizabeth Buckley of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. Ortiz, who has remained in custody since his arrest in April 2013, will begin serving his sentence immediately.

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