

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

October 29, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Antonio Ortiz Jr. Guilty of Murder

Rochester, NY- Today, a Monroe County jury found 44 year old Antonio Ortiz Jr. Guilty of Murder in the Second Degree for the fatal stabbing death 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 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. The jury deliberated for under two hours following the 7 day trial.

The case was prosecuted for the People by Bureau Chiefs Michelle Crowley and Elizabeth Buckley of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

"Murder by its very nature is an act of incredible brutality, but the brutality demonstrated by the defendant in this case rose to the extreme," said Crowley. "Antonio Ortiz stabbed William Fergus forty-six times. Any person capable of that level of violence cannot be allowed to be free in this community, and I'm pleased that we were able to bring about today's verdict."

Ortiz will be sentenced before Judge John Demarco on January 22nd at 10:30am, where he faces up to 25 Years to Life in prison.

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