



Aisha Braveboy
State's Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

OXON HILL MAN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER CO-DEFENDANTS PLED GUILTY IN THIS CASE

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Josue Cristobal Torres was found guilty of first-degree murder and related charges by a Prince George's County jury.

The victim, John Paul Cruz, was shot and killed on December 24, 2021. Police responded to 5521 Livingston Road in Oxon Hill and found Cruz unresponsive in the driver's seat of his vehicle. An investigation later revealed that Torres, 24, and several others lured him to meet on Marcy Avenue with the intent to smoke marijuana and hang out. Torres and the others approached Cruz's car, ordered him out, and shot him. His phone was also stolen.

"We are pleased that justice has been served in this case," said State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy. "This was truly a senseless crime in which the victim lost his life for no reason other than the fact that Mr. Torres and the others wanted to rob him. Our message here is that crime won't be tolerated and we will vigorously prosecute individuals who commit heinous crimes like this one. I want to thank both Assistant State's Attorney Jonathan Naylor and Colin Carmello for their hard work on this case."

Torres was also found guilty of use a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence and conspiracy to commit armed robbery. The jury returned the verdict on Friday evening. He is facing life plus 40 years in prison and he is scheduled to be sentenced on May 18th. Co-defendant 21-year-old Angel Amaya pled guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to life suspend all, but 15 years. The two juvenile co-defendants also pled guilty in this case.

☎ 301-780-8206



Denise Douglas
Director of Communications
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County



✉ dadouglas@co.pg.md.us