



MELINDA KATZ DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR THE DA'S WEEKLY EBLAST,
EMAIL REQUESTS TO
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A Message from District Attorney

MELINDA KATZ

PIG BUTCHERING SCAMMER SENTENCED

My office recently secured \$2.5 million in restitution for 13 victims who were swindled as part of a so-called pig butchering investment scheme.

The victims were befriended online by someone name "Lily List" who gradually won their trust. Over time, they were convinced to invest in fraudulent assets through fake websites.

Eventually, the victims lost access to their "accounts" as the funds were routed to multiple shell companies controlled by the 37-year-old defendant.

The defendant pleaded guilty in March to grand larceny in the third degree. She was also sentenced to 120 days in jail and had to forfeit luxury accessories to be auctioned at a later date with the proceeds going to the victims.

One way to avoid becoming a victim of fraud is to never share your financial information with people you only know online. Do not give money to anyone you don't know in real life. If you're thinking about making an investment, be wary of advice from new "friends" you have not met in person.

In Friendship,

STAY CONNECTED



DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 115 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR FATAL SHOOTING OF NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN DILLER

A 36-year-old Long Island City resident was sentenced to 115 years to life in prison for killing NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller and for attempting to shoot and kill NYPD Sergeant Sasha Rosen in Far Rockaway in March 2024.

A jury convicted Guy Rivera of aggravated manslaughter in the first degree, attempted murder in the first degree and two counts of weapon possession following a three-week trial.

"This defendant ignored repeated lawful commands and used an illegal firearm to kill a dedicated police officer and attempted to murder an NYPD sergeant," District Attorney Katz said. "Jonathan Diller represented the very best of law enforcement: courage, commitment and service to community."

Officer Diller, who was promoted posthumously to detective, was on patrol in Far Rockaway with the NYPD's Queens South Community Response Team (CRT) on March 25, 2024. CRT Sergeant Rosen spotted a gun-shaped bulge in the front pocket of Rivera's sweatshirt when he left a Mott Avenue store.

The defendant stepped into the passenger side of a 2016 Kia Soul. Detective Diller, along with other NYPD officers, approached the vehicle and issued commands to Rivera to roll down his window and to step out of the car.

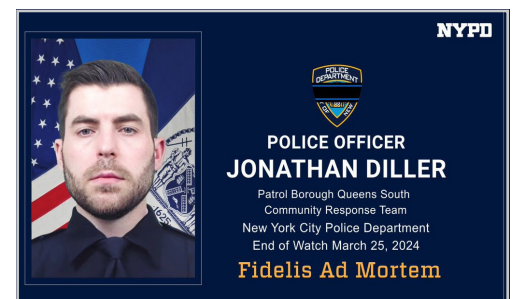
One of the officers reached inside the driver's window and unlocked the doors of the vehicle. Detective Diller then opened the door on the passenger side where the defendant sat.

Again, Rivera was ordered to step out of the car. He refused and instead reached into his pocket and ignored multiple commands. The defendant withdrew a .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol and fired. Detective Diller was struck in the abdomen below his bulletproof vest.

The defendant then pointed the gun toward Sergeant Rosen's chest and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed. Detective Diller wrestled the gun from the man's hands and then collapsed.

Detective Diller was rushed to a nearby hospital. The bullet severed his iliac artery and caused massive internal bleeding. Despite valiant efforts by the emergency medical team, Diller succumbed to the injuries.

"The void left by this senseless loss at the hands of this defendant is immeasurable. This sentence does not erase the tragedy of that day, but it ensures that this defendant will never be free again to terrorize the streets of New York City," DA Katz said.



ALLEGED GUN RUNNERS INDICTED



District Attorney Katz recently announced the 131-count indictment against two individuals who allegedly sold 38 illegal guns to undercover officers in Queens and the Bronx.

The defendants were accused of selling guns in 16 different transactions during daylight hours in neighborhoods such as Woodhaven, Flushing and College Point.

Getting guns off the streets of Queens is a top priority. The 38 weapons seized will never be used to wreak havoc in this borough's neighborhoods and playgrounds.

One of the defendants worked as a security guard at Queens College and is alleged to have sold a loaded revolver outside a campus building while he was on duty and in uniform.

"These are 38 guns that will never be fired in our communities," DA Katz said. "I thank the brave undercover NYPD officers who put themselves in harm's way to get these deadly weapons off the street and I commend the prosecutors in my Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau for their work on this investigation."

Two of the 38 guns sold during this investigation were reported stolen in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Another handgun acquired during this operation is connected to multiple shootings in Newark, New Jersey.

Most of the guns sold to undercover law enforcement were loaded and purchases included a machine gun and 9 mm pistols.

The defendants – both from Manhattan – are variously charged with conspiracy, criminal sale of a firearm, criminal possession of a weapon and other crimes. If convicted, both men face up to 25 years in prison.

CASES OF INTEREST

A rapist and kidnapper was sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty for sickening attacks on two teen girls and a young woman. **Andres Portilla**, 31, of Jackson Heights lured a minor to his apartment in 2022 where he beat and raped her, forced the teen into a duffel bag and held her captive for months in his car.

A second teenager was lured into the defendant's car, where he sexually assaulted her and a third victim, a 21-year-old woman, was sexually assaulted and held against her will for four days. The defendant released the young woman after seeing news coverage of her disappearance in January 2023. Days later, the defendant was apprehended by police.

In another case, a Hollis resident was convicted at trial of murder, robbery and other crimes for the horrific beating death of a 60-year-old pawn shop owner in March 2022.

Rodolfo Lopez-Portillo, 51, sold two watches to the merchant. Moments after the transaction, the victim walked to a display case to put the

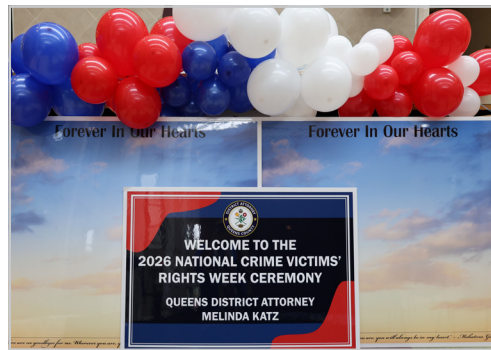


watches inside. That's when the defendant pulled out what appeared to be a metal pipe and struck the man from behind. When he fell to the floor, the defendant continued to hit him causing head and brain trauma. The victim died three weeks later.

CRIME VICTIMS REMEMBERED

Every April the DA's office commemorates Crime Victims' Rights Week with a special ceremony to remember the victims of violent crime and families who live with the pain of loss every day.

Survivors need both justice and support to rebuild their lives after a trauma. The office's ceremony this year focused on listening to victims, acting on their behalf and advocating for meaningful change. DA Katz and the entire office are committed to seeking justice on behalf of grieving family members. The DA also has a Crime Victims Advocate Program, which hosted the ceremony, that is dedicated to assisting survivors. Healing does not always end with a conviction. If you need help, call 718-286-6812.



NEW CLASS OF PROSECUTORS

DA Katz swore in a new class of prosecutors, (left to right) Fred Yu, Mikaela Cordasco, Mia Wolosky and Benjamin Chesler. These new assistant district attorneys began an intensive training program to become acquainted with every aspect of the office's operations. The new lawyers will be well prepared to join the DA's mission to keep those who live, work and visit Queens County safe.

