

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **86-YEAR SENTENCE FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER, HOME INVASION, KIDNAPPING IN NOVEMBER 2016 SLAYING ON ELGIN'S WEST SIDE JUDGE CALLS ALBERTO SEPEDA'S KILLING OF NORBERT GUTIERREZ AN 'EXECUTION'**

July 30, 2018

An Elgin man likely will live out his life in prison for forcing his way into a home where his girlfriend and her infant child were staying, shooting the homeowner to death and then using a handgun to force the girlfriend and infant to leave with him.

Kane County Circuit Judge John A. Barsanti today sentenced 30-year-old **Alberto J. Sepeda** to 86 years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

A Kane County jury on May 10, 2018, convicted Sepeda of first-degree murder, 2 counts aggravated kidnapping, Class X felonies, and home invasion, Class X felony, in the November 2016 shooting death of 59-year-old Norbert Gutierrez of Elgin.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Joseph Cullen and Matthew Rodgers presented evidence in court that at about 4:15 a.m. Nov. 16, 2016, Sepeda, who was intoxicated, drove to a home in the 800 block of Morgan Street where his girlfriend and her infant were staying. Sepeda pushed his way into the home, and when he refused to leave, Gutierrez, the homeowner, physically threw Sepeda out of the house. As Sepeda fell down the home's front steps, he grabbed Gutierrez's shirt, pulling him to the ground with him. After a brief struggle, Sepeda shot Gutierrez in the chest with a 40-caliber semi-automatic handgun, and then pressed the barrel of the gun against the top of Gutierrez's head and fired another round, killing him. Meanwhile the other family members in the house bolted the front door. Sepeda forced his way back into the home and ordered his girlfriend out of the house at gunpoint. He forced her and her 1-year-old daughter into his car and then led Elgin police in a 2.5-mile chase that at one point reached 90 mph before his car broke down in the 1100 block of Oakley Avenue. Elgin police then took Sepeda into custody.

In announcing the sentence, Judge Barsanti said Sepeda committed the murder, "execution style."

The sentence is 40 years for first-degree murder plus a mandatory 25-year enhancement because Sepeda personally fired the gun that killed Gutierrez, and 6 years each for the aggravated kidnappings and home invasion plus a mandatory 15-year enhancement because Sepeda used a gun as he committed the offenses. The aggravated kidnappings and home invasion sentences of 21 years each are to be served concurrent to one another but consecutive to the murder sentence of 65 years for a total of 86 years.

According to Illinois law, Sepeda must serve the full sentence for first-degree murder, and he must serve at least 85 percent of the aggravated kidnappings and home invasion sentences. He receives credit for 622 days served in the Kane County jail.

**Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said:**

"Mr. Sepeda is a violent person who committed a brutal, senseless crime and tried to excuse his behavior by claiming he acted in self-defense. Although justice has been served, unfortunately, justice does not mean that Norbert Gutierrez's friends and loved ones will see him again. Still, I hope this sentence provides a sense of peace to them.

"I also hope that this violent crime, which is rooted in domestic violence, helps all in the community to understand to the importance of recognizing the seriousness of domestic violence.

"My thanks to the officers at the Elgin Police Department and to the prosecution team of ASAs Cullen and Rodgers for their hard work in this case."

**Alberto J. Sepeda:** Age 29 (d.o.b. 7-10-1988), of the 300 block of South Belmont Avenue, Elgin, Illinois