

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **CARLOS LOPEZ FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER FOR AUGUST 2017 STABBING DEATH OF BAYRON CRUZ-GARCIA OF ELGIN LOPEZ BELIEVED VICTIM WAS IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FORMER GIRLFRIEND**

March 13, 2020

A Kane County jury on Thursday, March 12, 2020, found 31-year-old **Carlos F. Lopez** guilty of the offense of first-degree murder in the August 2017 stabbing death of 36-year-old Bayron Cruz-Garcia of Elgin.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Joseph Cullen and Christine Bayer presented evidence that the defendant recruited and paid co-defendants **Gabriel Lopez** and **Michael Giacomino** to beat up Cruz-Garcia. The defendant believed that the victim was having an affair with the defendant's former girlfriend. At 1:10 a.m. Aug. 12, 2017, the three men drove to the victim's work place in Elgin, where they laid in wait for 58 minutes until the victim left the building. The defendant and his two accomplices each then punched and kicked the victim multiple times with enough force to leave a shoeprint-shaped contusion on his forehead. During the attack, the defendant used a knife to stab and slash the victim 19 times. The defendants fled. Several minutes later Elgin police officers arrived and attempted to render aid to Mr. Cruz-Garcia, but due to the severity of his injuries, he died while an Elgin officer was performing CPR on him at the crime scene.

Kane County Circuit Judge Donald M. Tegeler, Jr., set Lopez's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. June 12, 2020, in Courtroom 311 at the Kane County Judicial Center for motions and sentencing. Lopez faces a sentence of between 20 and 60 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Gabriel Lopez in August 2019 pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and is serving a 25-years prison sentence. Giacomino is charged with first-degree murder and other offenses. His case is pending. His trial is scheduled to begin May 11, 2020, in Courtroom 311.

Carlos Lopez remains in custody at the Kane County jail, where he had been held in lieu of \$3 million bail. Judge Tegeler revoked bond upon conviction.

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

"Mr. Lopez carried out a premeditated plan to attack and kill his former girlfriend's new boyfriend. The violent murder of Bayron Cruz-Garcia is the worst possible ending to a domestic violence case. Although crimes like this don't surprise me, the violence used by Mr. Lopez, who stalked and snuck up on his victim and attacked him like a coward, was cold-blooded and unnerving.

"My thanks to this jury for their time and consideration, to ASAs Cullen and Bayer for their hard work, and to the Elgin police for their investigation.

The charges against Giacomino are not proof of guilty. Giacomino is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

**Carlos F. Lopez:** Age 31 (d.o.b. 7-6-1988), of the 1-99 block of Birch Street, Elgin, Illinois. Case No. 17CF1566.