

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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SECOND MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN 2021 AURORA CARJACKING THAT LEFT WOMAN PARALYZED

ISHMAIL GONZALEZ GETS 40 YEARS IN PRISON

*RE: **Ishmail Gonzalez**: Age 17 (d.o.b. 3-14-2005), of the 14500 block of Lexington Avenue, Harvey, Illinois. Case No. 2022CF439.*

December 14, 2022

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser and Aurora Chief of Police Keith Cross announce that 17-year-old **Ishmail Gonzalez** has agreed to a sentence of 40 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to the offenses of aggravated battery with a firearm, Class X felony, and armed violence, Class X felony.

Judge John A. Barsanti accepted the plea.

Assistant State's Attorney Mark D. Stajdohar stated the following facts in court:

At about 4 p.m. on January 16, 2021, in a restaurant parking lot in the 1200 block of North Orchard Road, Aurora, Gonzalez and three others stole a car. During the theft they struggled with the car owner who was seated inside, pushing and pulling her in an attempt to remove her from the vehicle. Gonzalez then fired at least three shots from a handgun. One bullet struck the victim, leaving her permanently paralyzed.

The sentence is 25 years for the aggravated vehicular hijacking offense, plus 15 years for the armed violence offense. The terms are to be served consecutively.

According to Illinois law, Gonzalez must serve at least 85 percent of the sentence. He receives credit for 579 days served in incarceration.

Gonzalez is the second person to be convicted and sentenced in the case. Co-defendant Edward McGee 2021CF752 previously pleaded guilty to the offense of aggravated vehicular hijacking and received a sentence of 35 years in prison. The case of co-defendant Darrell Frazier 2021CF1071 is pending.

ASA Stajdohar said: "The shooting that left this victim paralyzed was the culmination of an afternoon of violence by these defendants. No one will ever begin to understand

Mr. Gonzalez's cold-hearted decision to shoot this victim, especially given that she was outnumbered, 4 to 1. His cowardly choices stand in stark contrast to the victim, who is courageously rebuilding her life. Thanks to the Aurora Police Department and detectives Chris Cox and Greg Christoffel, to FBI Special Agent Will Fuentes, to former ASA Bill Engerman for his work on this case and to victim advocate Linda Hagemann."

SA Mosser said: "Mr. Gonzalez's decision to engage in violence altered many lives, including his own. This brave victim will forever live a life affected by Mr. Gonzalez and his co-defendants. Mr. Gonzalez will spend the majority of the rest of his life in prison where he deserves to be so that he can no longer harm people in our community. Many people spent hours working for a fair and just resolution of this case. First, ASA Debra Conforti, supervisor of the Juvenile Delinquency Unit, handled the case in juvenile court for a year, representing the state at the hearing to have the case transferred to adult court – where he would be sentenced in accordance with the severity of his actions. Former ASA Bill Engerman and ASA Mark Stajdohar negotiated the plea agreement taking into the facts of the case and the wishes of the victim. The Aurora Police Department and FBI conducted a thorough investigation that resulted in the arrest of these individuals. My thanks to everyone involved for dedicating their time to seek justice for the victim in this case."

Chief Cross said: "We at the Aurora Police Department are grateful for the efforts of all the individuals that have worked hard to seek justice in this horrific case. No amount of incarceration will make up for the devastating injuries inflicted on the victim by these violent criminals, but it is our hope that this sentence will help the victim and her family on their path forward."

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