

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



### JOSEPH H. McMAHON

State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center  
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300  
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500  
Contact:  
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

### **CARLOS LOPEZ GETS 39 YEARS IN PRISON FOR AUGUST 2017 STABBING MURDER OF BAYRON CRUZ-GARCIA OF ELGIN LOPEZ BELIEVED VICTIM WAS IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FORMER GIRLFRIEND**

June 12, 2020

31-year-old **Carlos F. Lopez** today was sentenced to 39 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the August 2017 stabbing death of 36-year-old Bayron Cruz-Garcia of Elgin. Kane County Circuit Judge Donald M. Tegeler, Jr., delivered the sentence.

A Kane County jury on March 12, 2020, found **Lopez** guilty of the offense of first-degree murder.

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.

Gabriel Lopez in August 2019 pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and is serving a 25-year prison sentence. Giacomino is charged with first-degree murder and other offenses. His case is pending. His next court appearance is scheduled for June 25, 2020, in Courtroom 311.

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

"I hope this sentence provides some justice for Bayron Cruz-Garcia's family. Mr. Lopez's premeditated murder was violent and cold-blooded, and the worst possible ending to a domestic violence case. My thanks 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.