

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **ELGIN WOMAN SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR REPEATEDLY LYING TO POLICE DURING 2017 MURDER INVESTIGATION**

September 16, 2020

43-year-old **Hortencia M. Rojas** on Sept. 11, 2020, agreed to a sentence of 364 days in the Kane County jail in exchange for a guilty plea to the offense of obstructing justice, Class 4 felony.

Kane County Circuit Judge Donald M. Tegeler, Jr., accepted the plea.

On Aug. 12, 2017, Rojas witnessed the murder of Bayron Cruz-Garcia and called Elgin police to report the crime. She then engaged in a series of lies intended to misdirect police in the investigation of the murder.

Three defendants were convicted in the case:

- A jury found Carlos Lopez guilty of first-degree murder for stabbing and slashing Cruz-Garcia with a knife 19 times. He is serving a 39-year prison sentence.
- Gabriel Lopez agreed to a 25-year prison sentence in exchange for a guilty plea to first-degree murder
- Michael Giacomini pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and awaits sentencing.

In accordance with Illinois law, Rojas is eligible for day-for-day sentencing.

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

"Given the opportunity to do the right thing after a violent and horrific crime, Ms. Rojas chose to support the actions of three murderers and interfere with police. I hope this sentence sends a message that intentionally misleading police will not be tolerated. My thanks to Assistant State's Attorney Joe Cullen and to Elgin police for their work on this case."

**Hortencia M. Rojas:** Age 43 (d.o.b. 11-14-1976), of the 400 block of Raymond Street, Elgin, Illinois. Case No. 19CF1756.