



Orange County News

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District Attorney Hoovler Announces Guilty Plea in Homicide Case

Defendant Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree for killing 17 Year Old

Defendant to be Sentenced to Fifteen Years State Prison

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced today that on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, Tyler Castro, 23, of Newburgh, pleaded guilty before Orange County Court Judge Nicholas De Rosa, to Manslaughter in the First Degree, in connection with the shooting death of a 17 year old Newburgh man on August 30, 2016.

At the time he pleaded guilty, Castro admitted that on August 30, 2016, at about 11:20 PM, he was outside of a deli near the intersection of Fullerton Avenue and Third Street in the City of Newburgh, and shot at a man intending to cause him serious physical injury. Castro admitted that instead of hitting his intended target, he shot and killed a 17 year old man, who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. A video surveillance system inside the deli captured images of the victim being shot, but not of Castro. No eye-witnesses to the shooting initially came forward to report what they had seen, and City of Newburgh street cameras in the area were not operable at the time. The City of Newburgh Police Department conducted an investigation which ultimately resulted in Castro being arrested on October 12, 2016.

After extensive consultation with the victim's family, the District Attorney's Office allowed Castro to plead guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree, with the understanding that he would be sentenced to fifteen years in state prison. Representative of the victim's family were in court at the time of the plea. Castro is scheduled to be sentenced on September 29, 2017. The plea agreement, which was placed on the record at the time that Castro pleaded guilty, mandates that he be sentenced to fifteen years in state prison and five years post-release supervision.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the City of Newburgh Police Department for their investigation of the case and the arrest of Castro. In addition, District Attorney Hoovler thanked New York State Police for their assistance in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorneys Lorri Goldberg and Matthew Healy.

“It is hard to fathom the loss of another young man to senseless street violence,” said District Attorney David M. Hoovler. “I commend the City of Newburgh Police Department for their investigation of this particularly difficult case, and I hope that this plea brings some measure of closure to the victim’s family. Street security cameras have proven to be effective crime deterrents and valuable resources in the investigation and prosecution of street crimes and I encourage the City of Newburgh to ensure that all of their cameras remain operable.”

A criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

