



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 881-4800

ARRESTS MADE IN CONNECTION TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE HOMICIDE VICTIM ON FEBRUARY 25, 2022 AT JAMES STREET AND RYERSON AVENUE IN PATERSON

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

March 3, 2022

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Paterson Police Chief Ibrahim Baycora, Totowa Police Chief Carmen Veneziano, and Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik announce that based upon an investigation by the Paterson Police Department, in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, the Totowa Police Department, and the United States Secret Service, Justin Fisher, 29-years old; Ali Gibson, 51-years old; and Joelle Martucci, 24-years old; all from Totowa, were arrested on February 28 and March 2, 2022 in connection to the homicide of Stephanie DeJesus who was discovered on February 25, 2022 at James Street and Ryerson Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey. All three defendants are charged with Murder, first degree; and Conspiracy to Commit Murder, first degree.

At approximately 7:56 a.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022, members of the Paterson Police Department were dispatched to the area of James Street and Ryerson Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey in response to a suspicious vehicle. Upon their arrival, officers located the lifeless body of a female victim, Stephanie DeJesus, 38-years-old from Paterson, New Jersey, inside the trunk of the vehicle. Initially, her injuries appeared to be the result of a gunshot wound, however following an autopsy the Medical Examiner determined that the injuries and the cause of death were the result of blunt force trauma. Ms. DeJesus was pronounced deceased on the scene.

The subsequent investigation revealed that Fisher, Gibson, and Martucci were involved in the murder of Ms. DeJesus. Ms. Martucci was arrested without incident at Paterson Police Headquarters on Monday, February 28, 2022. Following the filing of charges against them, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Gibson surrendered without incident to the Passaic County Sheriff's Office in Paterson on March 2, 2022. All defendants are currently detained at the Passaic County Jail.

The crime of Murder has a sentencing range from a minimum of 30 years up to life imprisonment; the crime of Conspiracy to Commit Murder has a sentencing range of 10 to 20 years in prison.

The State has filed motions for pretrial detention that will be heard by a Superior Court Judge.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Despite these accusations, defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org or contact the Paterson Police Detective Bureau at 973-321-1120.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Senior Assistant Prosecutor In-Charge Jorge E. Morales of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at jmorales@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7706.



JUSTIN FISHER



ALI GIBSON



JOELLE MARTUCCI