



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION TO THE OCTOBER 29, 2020 HOMICIDE ON CHRISTINA PLACE IN PATERSON

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

October 31, 2020

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Paterson Police Chief Ibrahim Baycora announce that on Saturday, October 31, 2020, Donqua Thomas, 30 years old from Paterson, was arrested in connection to the homicide that took place on October 29, 2020 on Christina Place in Paterson. Thomas was charged with Murder, first degree; Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Second degree; Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, second degree; and Certain Persons not to have Weapons, second degree.

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, at approximately 1:37 p.m., police officers responded to the area of 5 Christina Place in the City of Paterson in response to a report of a shooting. Upon their arrival, the officers discovered one female victim, 31 year old R.L., who had suffered apparent gunshot wounds. R.L. was 8 months pregnant, and was transported to St. Joseph's University Medical Center for emergency treatment. While at the hospital, R.L. delivered her child, however she succumbed to her wounds and was pronounced deceased shortly after delivering her child. The baby is healthy and currently admitted in stable condition.

The subsequent investigation revealed that Thomas parked in a vehicle near the victim's residence over an hour and a half before she arrived. Upon her arrival, she parked next to Thomas and exited her car and moments later Thomas shot her several times and drove off. Thomas surrendered himself without incident at Paterson Police headquarters earlier this afternoon. The crime of Murder has a sentencing range from a minimum of 30 years up to life imprisonment, the crimes of Possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, Unlawful possession of a weapon, and Certain persons not to have weapons have a sentencing range of 5 to 10 years in prison.

The State intends to file a motion for pre-trial detention which will be held at a future date and time to be determined by the Court.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org or contact the Paterson Police Detective Bureau at 973-321-1120.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite the accusations, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Statuto of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7733.



Donqua Thomas