

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

September 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Reign Tapiato Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the
Homicide of Jakarah Lopez-Moore**

Rochester, NY- On Friday, September 6, 2024, 28-year-old Reign Tapiato pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the fatal shooting of Jakarah Lopez-Moore.

On August 29, 2023, the family of 16-year-old Jakarah Lopez-Moore reported the teenager missing. The Rochester Police Department began investigating her disappearance. On October 14, 2023, her body was found in the woods behind Vanguard Parkway by fishermen walking toward the Erie Canal.

After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, Reign Tapiato was identified as responsible for Jakarah's death. It was determined that on August 27, 2023, Reign Tapiato shot and killed Jakarah Lopez-Moore while in a wooded area in the City of Rochester.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

“When Reign Tapiato made the decision to take Jakarah Lopez-Moore’s life, he left behind a community in mourning and a family who loved her,” said Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante. “While I am pleased that Reign Tapiato admitted to shooting and killing Jakarah, it does not change the fact that a 16-year-old was shot and killed. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department for their thorough investigation of this case. From the first missing-person call from Jakarah’s family, the Rochester Police Department worked diligently to find out what happened to this young woman and are ultimately responsible for the identification and apprehension of Reign Tapiato. I also want to thank Jakarah’s family for their support in seeking justice for their loved one.”

“Jakarah Lopez-Moore was a 16-year-old who had her entire life ahead of her,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Reign Tapiato deserves to spend decades in the New York State Department of Corrections for taking this innocent victim’s life, but also for letting her family suffer and wonder what happened to Jakarah for months. We hope that Reign Tapiato will use his time in the Department of Corrections to reflect on his violent actions that took a life and ruined a family. It is our hope that Jakarah Lopez-Moore’s loved ones can find justice in today’s admission of guilt.”

Reign Tapiato will be sentenced to 20 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision on November 4, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Moran.

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