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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SALVADOR ANTONIO MARTINEZ-ROMERO CONVICTED OF MURDER IN DEADLY STABBING SPREE

HILLSBORO, Ore- On August 7, 2024, Salvador Antonio Martinez-Romero pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree, three counts of attempted murder in the first degree, and four counts of robbery in the first degree. On August 13, 2024, Judge Brandon Thompson sentenced the defendant to life in prison with a minimum of 30 years served before parole eligibility on the murder conviction and nine years in prison on the remaining convictions. These sentences will be served consecutively. Senior Deputy District Attorneys John Gerhard and Allison Brown prosecuted this case.

On December 18, 2019, the defendant was under the influence of methamphetamine when he entered a grocery store in the Murrayhill area of Beaverton, Oregon, and purchased a large chef's knife. He then walked into a bank located in the same shopping center, pulled out the knife, and demanded tellers give him cash.

The murder victim in this case, Janet Risch, was inside the bank to withdraw cash as Christmas gifts for her grandchildren when the defendant arrived. When the defendant did not receive money fast enough, he grabbed the murder victim's adult daughter, Deb Thompson, from behind and slit her throat with his knife. After tellers handed him the cash, the defendant stabbed Ms. Risch in her in the back, causing fatal wounds. The murder victim's adult daughter and the bank tellers tried to render aid. While unable to save her mother's life, the murder victim's daughter survived her wounds but was left permanently injured.

The defendant then fled the bank and confronted the third victim as he was leaving an area gym. He demanded the victim's car, but he resisted. The defendant then stabbed this man in the chest which caused serious injuries. He fled the scene in the victim's vehicle.

The defendant then drove to a residential area in Tigard, Oregon. He damaged the vehicle he had stolen and abandoned it. He saw the fourth victim approaching in her vehicle and flagged her down. When she stopped her car, the defendant stabbed her in the leg and torso, pulled her from the vehicle, and stole her car. Police caught up to the defendant, saw him ditch the second stolen vehicle, and saw him flee on foot. He was located near a high school campus and taken into custody. Officers found large amounts of cash stuffed down his pants and hidden under a nearby pile of leaves.

The Washington County District Attorney's Office wishes to send our condolences to Ms. Risch's family and to thank all of the involved victims for their strength throughout this process.



Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Ronda Groshong



NEWS RELEASE

Officer Matt Henderson
Public Information Officer
(503) 969-6502

Released: December 18, 2019
Case No: 19-3520424

Robbery/Homicide Investigation

On December 18, 2019 at 10:58 a.m., Beaverton Police officers responded to a robbery at the Wells Fargo Bank located in the Murray Hill Shopping Center at 14725 SW Teal Blvd. While responding to the bank, officers learned that there were at least two victims inside who had been stabbed.

Two minutes after the initial 911 call, responding officers were advised of another call for service at the Planet Fitness next door to Wells Fargo. Officers were advised an adult male had been stabbed in the parking lot and the suspect stole his car. The suspect then fled towards Tigard, Oregon in the victim's vehicle.

At 11:03 a.m., Tigard Police Department officers were dispatched to a residential area close to SW Murray Blvd. and SW Scholls Ferry Rd. on a third report, where an adult female was stabbed and her vehicle stolen by the suspect from the prior two incidents.

The suspect eventually fled from the second stolen vehicle on foot in residential area near SW Pacific Hwy. in Tigard, OR. The suspect was taken into custody by officers from the Beaverton Police Department, the Tigard Police Department and the Washington County Sheriff's Office, in the area where he fled the second stolen vehicle.

One female victim from Wells Fargo Bank is deceased. The second female victim from the bank is in critical condition at a local hospital. The other two stabbing victims sustained serious injuries and are being treated at local hospitals. The Washington County Major Crimes Team is investigating this case.

The suspect has been identified as 20-year-old Salvador Martinez-Romero. Mr. Martinez-Romero is being lodged at the Washington County Jail for Murder, Attempted Murder, and two counts of Robbery in the First Degree.



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This office also acknowledges the work of the Beaverton Police Department, the Tigard Police Department, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and all first responders who assisted on this case.



Beaverton Police Department

4755 S.W. Griffith Drive
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Chief Ronda Groshong



NEWS RELEASE

Officer Matt Henderson
Public Information Officer
(503) 969-6502

Released: December 19, 2019
Case No: 19-3520424

ROBBERY/HOMICIDE UPDATE

Yesterday, December 18, 2019 at 10:58 A.M., 20-year-old Salvador Martinez-Romero from Hubbard, Oregon, armed with a knife, robbed the Wells Fargo Bank located in the Murray Hill Shopping Center at 14725 S.W. Teal Blvd. in Beaverton, Oregon.

During the robbery, 72-year-old Janet Risch of Beaverton was killed and 53-year-old Debra Thompson of Beaverton was critically injured. Upon exiting the Wells Fargo bank, Mr. Martinez-Romero, still armed with a knife, confronted 26-year-old Ian Day in the parking lot of the Planet Fitness, located at 14755 S.W. Teal Blvd. Mr. Martinez-Romero stole Mr. Day's vehicle, injuring Mr. Day in the process.

Mr. Martinez-Romero then drove Mr. Day's vehicle south into Tigard, Oregon where he confronted 50-year-old Martha Bashir in a residential neighborhood near SW Walnut St. in Tigard, Oregon. Mr. Martinez-Romero stole Ms. Bashir's vehicle, also injuring her in the process.

Mr. Martinez-Romero drove Ms. Bashir's vehicle to the 11700 block of Hwy 99 in Tigard, Oregon. He ran on foot from the area and was apprehended by police officers from the Beaverton Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office and Tigard Police Department.

53-year-old Debra Thompson is in critical, but stable condition at a local hospital. 26-year-old Ian Day and 50-year-old Martha Bashir were taken by ambulance to local hospitals where they were treated and released. 72-year-old Janet Risch was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Washington County Major Crimes Team is still investigating this case. Mr. Martinez-Romero was lodged at the Washington County Jail for Murder, Attempted Murder, and two counts of Robbery in the First Degree. He is scheduled to appear in court today at 3:00 P.M. at the Washington County Law Enforcement Center in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Below is a booking photograph taken on December 18, 2019 of Mr. Martinez-Romero from the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



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