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RICHMOND COUNTY

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**D.A. McMahon: Staten Island Man Convicted for Murdering 17-year-old**

*\*\*Mark Ortiz fatally shot Barry Lovelace\*\**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that MARK ORTIZ has been found guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree for shooting Barry Lovelace, killing him.

ORTIZ was convicted today following a week-long jury trial in Richmond County Supreme Court, St. George, before Justice Mario F. Mattei. ORTIZ faces a maximum of 25 years to life in prison when he is sentenced on December 8, 2016.

“Mark Ortiz turned a gun on his own friend and pulled the trigger, killing him in a senseless and heartless act of violence,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “With this jury trial conviction, Mr. Ortiz has been found guilty on all counts and will now be held responsible for this brutal murder. We hope this conviction provides closure to the victim’s family. I would like to thank the jury for their service and commend the hard work of ADAs Lisa Davis and Victoria Levin for their diligence in prosecuting this case and securing a just and fair conviction on behalf of the victim and the people of Staten Island.”

According to a three-count indictment and documents filed in court, on February 16, 2015, at about 1:45 a.m., inside an apartment building at 806 Henderson Avenue, ORTIZ fired at least four rounds from a 9 millimeter semi-automatic pistol at Barry Lovelace, 17, killing him. After the shooting the defendant fled from the scene on foot. A witness identified ORTIZ as the person whom Lovelace stated had shot him immediately before Lovelace died. The witness also identified ORTIZ as having been in the apartment immediately before the shooting.

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The case was prosecuted by ADA Lisa Davis and Victoria Levin.

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Defendant Information:  
Mark Ortiz

D.O.B. 12/7/1994

791 Manor Road, Staten Island, N.Y.