



## News Release

March 29, 2024

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### **Sanchez-Lopez Sentenced to Twenty Years in Prison on Chanhassen Murder Charges**

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on March 29, 2024, Carver County District Court Judge Eric Braaten sentenced Vanessa Sanchez-Lopez, age 19, to a prison term of 240 months – twenty years. Sanchez-Lopez was convicted of Murder in the Second Degree / Drive-By Shooting.

On February 2, 2023, Sanchez-Lopez drove to a residence in Chanhassen from St. Paul with three occupants in her vehicle, including the victim (her boyfriend). Sanchez-Lopez was consuming alcohol and had shot a handgun out the window during the drive. While parked in the driveway of the Chanhassen residence, Sanchez-Lopez retrieved the handgun, pointed it at the victim's head, and pulled the trigger, resulting in the victim's death. Sanchez-Lopez would later state that she did not believe the gun was loaded.

This entirely avoidable tragedy resulted in the tragic loss of a 17-year-old child who had his whole life in front of him: a tremendous loss to his family and friends.

County Attorney Metz commented that whenever any person irresponsibly and recklessly engages in gun violence, the Carver County Attorney's shall prosecute to the full extent of the law. Moreover, the Carver County Attorney's Office will do everything within its power to protect community safety, hold offenders accountable, and obtain some level of justice for the families of victims.

County Attorney Metz also recognized the diligent work of the Carver County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in this extensive investigation, as well as the superlative prosecution by Angella Erickson, Criminal Division Manager.

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