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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN NORTH BERGEN HOMICIDE

Hudson County Prosecutor Wayne Mello has released the following information:

On Friday, March 27, 2026, the Honorable Angelo Servidio sentenced a Secaucus man to 20 years in New Jersey State Prison for his role in connection with a 2024 fatal shooting in North Bergen.

James Baker, 26, previously pled guilty to one count of Aggravated Manslaughter in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-4. The sentence is subject to the No Early Release Act. The State was represented in this matter by Hudson County Assistant Prosecutor Kevin Roe.

Shortly after 9 a.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024, the North Bergen Police Department was notified of an injured male in the area of Meadowview Avenue and 61st Street. Responding officers located a male victim – later identified as Juan Ortiz, 31, of North Bergen – with an apparent gunshot wound(s). He was transported to Palisades Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at approximately 9:40 a.m.