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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 13 YEARS IN PRISON IN GANG-RELATED
KILLING OF TEEN AT RAP VIDEO FILMING AT A MCDONALD'S
Defendant Pleaded Guilty to First-Degree Manslaughter**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man was sentenced to 13 years in prison for a gang-related shooting that killed a 17-year-old boy in a crowd that gathered for the filming of a rap music video in a McDonald's parking lot.

District Attorney Clark said, "Rival gang members showed up at the filming of a music video at a McDonald's and exchanged gunfire. Five people were shot, including a 17-year-old boy who died from his wounds. The defendant fired the fatal shot. This happened in 2021, as we saw the most shootings in 25 years and more teens were ensnared in gun violence. We remain resolute in making our streets safer and steering our youth from gang culture."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Luis Cruz, 21, of East 183rd Street, the Bronx, was sentenced today to 13 years in prison and five years post-release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio. The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree Manslaughter on May 30, 2023.

According to the investigation, on May 15, 2021, at about 9 p.m., the defendant, with the ATR Trinitarios gang, exchanged gunfire with an opposition gang, the Shooting Boys, in the McDonald's restaurant parking lot at Clay Avenue and Belmont Street in Claremont, where a crowd had gathered for the rap music video. The defendant fired a single shot from a .380-caliber pistol and Armanis Valdez, 17, was shot in the chest and died.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Homicide Counsel Morgan Dolan under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorney Katerina Kurteva of Trial Bureau 60 for her assistance with the case. District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Connor Walsh of the 44th Precinct, Robert Cintron of Bronx Homicide and Police Officers Thomas



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Accomando of the 46th Precinct, and Ramon Mejia of the 44th Precinct for their work in the investigation.

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