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100-2025
For Immediate Release
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**TWO BRONX MEN INDICTED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF AUTISTIC
MAN DURING ROBBERY IN STARLIGHT PARK**
Defendants Also Charged with Gunpoint Robbery of Another Man Minutes Earlier

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that two Bronx men were indicted on second-degree Murder and other related charges in the fatal shooting of a man inside Starlight Park, as well as a gunpoint robbery minutes earlier a half mile away.

District Attorney Clark said, "In the space of just 15 minutes these defendants allegedly robbed one man at gunpoint and then shot another man to death while robbing him. The 26-year-old murder victim was walking through Starlight Park on his way home from work. We will do everything in our power to bring justice to his family."

District Attorney Clark said the defendants, Axel Martinez, 20, of Van Nest Avenue, and Luis Castillo, 19, of East Gun Hill Road, have been indicted on two counts of second-degree Murder, one count of first-degree Manslaughter, two counts of first-degree Robbery, two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon and two counts of second-degree Robbery. Martinez was arraigned today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas and remand was continued. Castillo was arraigned on October 28, 2025, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Lawrence Busching and remanded. They are due back in court on January 29, 2026.

According to the investigation, just after midnight on September 4, 2025, the defendants were riding on bikes in the vicinity of Beach Avenue and the Cross-Bronx Expressway when they approached a man, pointed a gun at him and demanded his possessions. They took the victim's cell phone and wallet.

Approximately 15 minutes later, the defendants entered Starlight Park where they approached Ronell Marte and allegedly stole his cell phone. The defendants allegedly fired one shot at the victim, killing him.



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A bicyclist came across Marte and called 911. The victim was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Homicide Counsel Timothy Collins of the Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Burim Namani, Deputy Chief of the Homicide Bureau, 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 Trial Preparation Assistant Mateo Urrego and Ana Pimentel, Violence Response and Homicide Advocate Supervisor of the Bronx DA's Crime Victims Assistance Bureau for their assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detectives Stephen Doyle of the Bronx Homicide Squad and Felix Delcarpio of the 43rd Precinct Detective Squad for their work in the investigation.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.