



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Not guilty plea – more indictments Unsealed in 2017 Braintree murder

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Juana Rivera, 19, of Lynn, pleaded not guilty to murder and six additional indictments at her Norfolk Superior Court arraignment today (April 30, 2018) in the Braintree murder of 19-year-old Reina Rodriguez in June of 2017.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Connors ordered Rivera held without bail after Assistant District Attorney Lisa Beatty recited a brief narrative of the allegations.

In addition to murder, Rivera pled not guilty to unarmed robbery, kidnapping, conspiracy to commit murder, human trafficking, conspiracy to commit unarmed robbery and deriving support from prostitution.

Judge Connors heard allegations that Rivera knew that the victim was engaged in sex work at the Hyatt Place Hotel on Forbes Road in Braintree, Mass. and conspired with co-defendants Kentavious Coleman, age 20, and Kenyonte Galmore, age 22, to travel to Braintree to rob her at that location. Connors heard that there was a history of animosity between Rodriguez and Rivera.

Coleman and Galmore are both currently in custody in the state of Mississippi on unrelated matters. Massachusetts authorities have begun the process necessary to have them returned to Massachusetts to face arraignment for murder, unarmed robbery, kidnapping, conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to commit unarmed robbery.

Also indicted pursuant to this investigation was Jason McLeod, 35, of Mattapan who the grand jury indicted for human trafficking and deriving support from prostitution stemming from his relationship with Rodriguez. McLeod was arrested over the weekend by Maine State Police who learned of the warrant for his arrest during a routine traffic stop.

Rodriguez was found dead in a hotel room June 22, 2017, bound with telephone cords, prosecutors told Connors.

"It has taken a great deal of investigation and perseverance for detectives to unravel this full narrative and bring us to this arraignment today," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said after the arraignment. "Braintree Police and State Police detectives deserve great credit for the work done in this investigation."

Judge Connors ordered that she be returned to court May 10, 2018, at 2 p.m. for pre-trial conference.

All defendants enjoy the Constitutional presumption of innocence unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.