

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Man sentenced to life in prison for Uber driver's murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who cut the throat of Uber driver Marlo Johnis Medina-Chevez during a 2017 robbery has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. The trial of Diontray Adams, which began July 26, 2021, ended today with the jury's guilty verdict. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Adams, 29, for 1) first-degree murder and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon. After deliberating for less than an hour, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Trosch then sentenced Adams to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

On the evening of May 20, 2017, Mr. Medina-Chevez left his home in his blue Nissan Pathfinder to work as an Uber driver. Meanwhile, Adams and his codefendant, James Aaron Stevens, made a plan to rob an Uber driver. After Mr. Medina-Chevez picked them up, Adams pulled out a BB pistol, which appeared like a real pistol, and pointed it at Mr. Medina-Chevez. But Mr. Medina-Chevez fought back, grabbing the gun. In the struggle that followed, Adams pulled Mr. Medina-Chevez into the back seat and slit his throat with a utility knife. Then, Adams and Stevens drove Mr. Medina-Chevez's vehicle to South Carolina and left his body in a field.

When Mr. Medina-Chevez did not return home, his family reported him missing. As Charlotte-Mecklenburg police investigated, they learned that Mr. Medina-Chevez's debit card had been used in Maryland. On May 22, 2017, authorities in Maryland notified CMPD detectives that the victim's blue Nissan Pathfinder had been seen near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. When Maryland law enforcement stopped the vehicle, Adams and Stevens were among the occupants.

Analyzing phone records, the Federal Bureau of Investigation determined the suspects had been in the area of Rock Hill, South Carolina around the time of the murder. With the help of York County authorities, a police K9 located Mr. Medina-Chevez's body in a field in Rock Hill on May 25, 2017.

Stevens previously pled guilty in connection with the murder. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Mecklenburg County court sessions were closed August 9-10, 2021, due to a COVID-19 outbreak among employees at the courthouse. With precautions in place, court officials allowed this trial to resume today for closing arguments and jury deliberations.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).*

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