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CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ESTABLISHED 1888

PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 12, 2024

To: All Media Outlets

From: Lieutenant Jeffry R. Thoelen
Bureau Commander of Operations

Subject: City of Middletown Police make arrest in cold case homicide

On April 11, 2024, detectives from the City of Middletown Police Department, assisted by investigators from the FBI Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force, the New York State Police, and officers from the New York State Division of Parole, arrested Dijion D. Constantine (23) in the Bronx, NY, on the charge of murder in the Second Degree (PL125.25-01). This arrest culminates a highly intensive five-year investigation into the cold case homicide of Sebastian Avilan-Medina, which occurred at 23 Knapp Avenue in the City of Middletown on March 11, 2019.

Despite this arrest, the City of Middletown Police Department is continuing to investigate this incident and identify and charge the other suspects involved in the homicide. Members of the public with any information are urged to contact the City of Middletown Police Department via telephone, email, or social media.

The City of Middletown Police Department is being assisted in this investigation by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police, the New York City Police Department, the FBI's Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the New York State Division of Parole, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Hudson Valley Crime Analysis Center, the US Attorney's Office, and the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office.

"Today's arrest highlights the incredible progress made by the investigators and prosecutors who have been steadfast in their commitment to this case in the over five years since this heinous crime was committed," said District Attorney David M. Hoovler. "Through the ceaseless efforts of the City of Middletown Police and their investigative partners as well as the dedicated work of my staff, we have moved closer to providing justice to the family and friends of the victim. While the investigation is ongoing, today marks an important step forward."

Chief Ewanciw stated, "This is a major milestone in what has proven to be a very challenging investigation into this horrible crime against our community. I am eternally grateful for the tireless work of the Middletown Police Detective Division and the many other agencies who have worked so closely with us to develop new leads and other information that subsequently lead to this arrest. Our work is not finished and I am confident that we will identify and locate the other individuals responsible for this incident and bring them to justice."

Dijion Constantine was arraigned in Middletown City Court on Friday, April 12, 2024 and remanded to the Orange County Jail. Constantine's arrest booking information and photo has been provided below.

Middletown Police Department Contact Information

- To contact the police department via telephone, please call (845)343-3151
- To contact the police department via email, please contact Detective Sergeant Rob Mecocci at rmecocci@middletownpolice.com
- To contact the police department via Facebook, search @middletownpolice or visit <https://www.facebook.com/middletownpolice>

A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of any guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



Name: Dijion D. Constantine
Age: 23
Current Address: Bronx, NY