

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

May 23, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Kendre Preston Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the Second Degree,
Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, and Vehicular
Manslaughter in the Second Degree**

Rochester, NY- On May 23, 2022, 27-year-old Kendre Preston pled guilty to Manslaughter in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree and Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree for causing the death of Benjie Martinez, after striking him while driving with his car while impaired.

On or about January 7, 2022, Kendre Preston was seen overtaking a second vehicle with shots fired near Lyell and Dewey Avenue in the City of Rochester. Rochester Police Department Officers pulled the defendant over in his vehicle on Wilkins and Joseph Avenue but he quickly drove away from the police. A car chase ensued where the defendant drove through numerous red lights and stop signs at approximately 100 mph as he traveled from the Westside to the Eastside of the City. The victim, Benjie Martinez was driving his vehicle lawfully when fatally struck by the defendant. A loaded 9mm pistol was recovered in the defendant's vehicle. It was also determined that the defendant was impaired under the combined influence of Marijuana and Alcohol when he committed these acts.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Bureau Chief of the DWI Bureau.

“Kendre Preston, a second time Felony Offender acted in an incredibly reckless manner causing the tragic death of Benjie Martinez,” said Assistant District Attorney Benitez. “With his guilty plea it is my hope that Mr. Martinez’s family can continue to heal while finding solace in knowing the defendant will spend a significant period of time in the Department of Corrections.”

“Benjie Martinez lost his life due to the senseless actions of Kendre Preston,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “I am pleased that the defendant has taken accountability for his careless actions, I hope he will spend his time in the Department of Corrections reflecting upon his choices and actions.”

Kendre Preston will be sentenced on July 6, 2022, in front of County Court Justice Dollinger.

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