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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Trenton Man Indicted for July 2020 Homicide**

A Mercer County grand jury returned a six-count indictment this week charging a 29-year-old Trenton man in the July 2020 shooting death of Luis X. Gonzalez, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Michael Owens is charged with one count of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, one count of second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon, one count of third-degree aggravated assault, one count of fourth-degree theft by unlawful taking and one count of second-degree certain persons not to possess a firearm.

Owens has been detained in the Mercer County Correction Center since July 2020, after he was taken into custody for aggravated assault and theft by unlawful taking. According to the New Jersey Department of Corrections website, Owens was released on parole from state prison on June 1, 2020.

The indictment is the result of an investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force.

On July 17, 2020, just before 9 p.m., Trenton police received calls for shots fired and a male shot in the middle of the street in the 1000 block of South Broad Street. Officers arrived on scene and located the victim, later identified as 37-year-old Gonzalez, in the

middle of the street suffering from multiple gunshots to the torso. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

The investigation revealed that the victim was at home in his South Broad Street residence just prior to being shot. He left his house while on his cell phone and was shot shortly thereafter.

The victim's cell phone was recovered by hospital staff and turned over to police. Investigation revealed that a cell phone number repeatedly contacted Gonzalez in the hour before and immediately prior to his murder. Officers also recovered .380 caliber shell casings at the scene of the shooting.

Detectives were able to locate numerous cameras in the area of the shooting and ascertain that Gonzalez walked directly from the area in front of his residence toward a vehicle and was shot several seconds later. Based on the video, the vehicle appeared to be a black Chevy Malibu which had recently been reported stolen in Hamilton. Investigation into the stolen vehicle led homicide detectives to a domestic violence incident that occurred in Hamilton on July 17, 2020. This incident involved an argument between Owens and his girlfriend that became physical. Owens placed his hand around his girlfriend's neck in an attempt to stop the blood circulation. When the victim was able to escape his grasp, Owens fled the residence and took her cell phone so she couldn't contact the police. Further investigation revealed the reason for the altercation was that Owens discovered Gonzalez's number in his girlfriend's phone and confronted her about it. The victim's mother is the registered owner of a black Chevy Malibu and Owens also took the keys to the vehicle when he left the house. Images obtained during the homicide investigation confirm distinctive features of this Malibu match those of the Malibu involved in Gonzalez's murder.

Detectives were also able to obtain surveillance video from the Roadrunner Gas Station on Brunswick Avenue from July 17, approximately 25 minutes before the murder, when the Chevy Malibu pulled in for gas. Owens was positively identified as the driver who exited the vehicle.

Assistant Prosecutor Michael Grillo presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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