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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon: Staten Island Man Sentenced to 25 Years to Life in Prison for Murdering Wife and Attempting to Conceal Corpse

Anthony Lopez strangled his wife, Obiamaka Aduba, killing her, and then attempted to conceal her corpse

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that ANTHONY LOPEZ was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after previously being convicted of Murder in the Second Degree, Strangulation, Concealing a Human Corpse, and Evidence Tampering for strangling his wife, Obiamaka Aduba, killing her, and then attempting to conceal her corpse.

LOPEZ, 33, was previously found guilty following a four-week jury trial in state Supreme Court, St. George, before Judge Wayne Ozzi. Today, the judge sentenced LOPEZ to a term of 25 years to life in prison on the charge of Murder in the Second Degree, and 15 years on the Strangulation charge, to run concurrent. Additionally, the defendant was sentenced to two to four years on the Evidence Tampering charge, to run consecutively to the Murder sentence, and two to four years on the Concealing a Human Corpse charge, to run concurrent to the Tampering sentence.

“This sentence ensures that the defendant spends his life behind bars for the atrocious crimes he was found guilty of committing,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “While nothing will ever bring Obiamaka Aduba back to us, I commend ADAs Tuesday Muller-Mondi and Wanda DeOliveira for their hard work to ensure justice was served, and I pray that today’s sentence provides some closure to the victim’s family and friends. My office remains committed to holding domestic abusers accountable and preventing these types of horrific crimes from ever happening again.”

On or about May 20, 2016, between the hours of 12 a.m. and 7 a.m., in the vicinity of 3196 Richmond Terrace, LOPEZ caused the death of Obiamaka Aduba, 26, by strangulation. The defendant then put the victim’s body on a metal dolly and partially wrapped her in in blankets, garbage bags and other materials from his home and wheeled her body along the street in an attempt to conceal the corpse. When LOPEZ was spotted wheeling the cart by an off-duty police officer, he abandoned it and fled. Shortly after the murder, the defendant made statements to his brother that he killed his wife. Additionally, detectives found blood

matching the victim's in LOPEZ's home, and the defendant's fingerprints were found on the garbage bag that had been placed over the victim. There was also video surveillance of the defendant wheeling the cart.

The case was prosecuted by ADAs Wanda DeOliveira, Chief Trial Counsel, and Tuesday Muller-Mondi, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

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