

181 Conn. App. 535

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disagree and, accordingly, affirm the judgment of the trial court.<sup>2</sup>

On the basis of the evidence presented at trial, the jury reasonably could have found the following facts. On the afternoon of July 13, 2013, the victim, Miguel Rodriguez, was standing on the sidewalk in front of 10-12 Flatbush Avenue in Hartford. Charlene Lara, a resident of the neighboring 18 Flatbush Avenue, was smoking a cigarette on her second floor porch. At approximately 3:54 p.m., Lara observed two people approach the victim from an open parking lot alongside 10-12 Flatbush Avenue, heard two series of gunshots, and called 911. Shortly thereafter, police and emergency response personnel found the victim, who was being tended to by residents of 10 Flatbush Avenue. The victim later was pronounced dead at Hartford Hospital.

Approximately seven or eight friends and family members of the victim were present when the shooting occurred. Those who were interviewed at the scene, although generally unwilling to provide any information about the incident or a suspect, indicated that the victim was missing a gold chain and medallion.<sup>3</sup> Police officers, however, located two eyewitnesses who were willing to give statements regarding the incident, Lara and Jose DeJesus.<sup>4</sup> A firearm or spent shell casings were never recovered.

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<sup>2</sup> Because we affirm the judgment of the trial court, we need not address the defendant's claim that his acquittal on the charge of murder precludes retrial for any offense that would require the state to prove his identity as the gunman who caused the victim's death.

<sup>3</sup> The victim's family members described the medallion as a Daffy Duck caricature holding two bags of money.

<sup>4</sup> Lara gave a sworn statement at the Hartford Police Department on August 15, 2013. Lara was shown an array of nine photographs and selected the third photograph, that of the defendant. Lara indicated that she was "very confident" that it was the individual shown in photograph three who shot the victim.

DeJesus lived on the first floor of 10-12 Flatbush Avenue. DeJesus was inside and witnessed the shooting through a front window. DeJesus gave an oral statement on July 14, 2013, and a sworn statement at the Hartford

NOTE: These pages (181 Conn. App. 539 and 540) are in replacement of the same numbered pages that appear in the Connecticut Law Journal of 1 May 2018.

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On July 14, 2013, Dennis DeMatteo, a detective with the Hartford Police Department, received a phone call from an “[associate] of the family” who was “[o]ne of the friends and family” of the victim. The caller stated that the defendant was responsible for the victim’s death and that the victim’s family members and associates were planning retaliation. The caller also provided a photograph of the defendant, which DeMatteo circulated within his department. On July 16, 2013, Audley McLean, an owner of K & M Jewelry Corporation (K & M) contacted the Hartford Police Department. McLean stated that he had purchased a gold chain and medallion from Lorenzo Christian on the afternoon of July 13, 2013. McLean provided a photograph of the jewelry, a copy of the check, and Christian’s state identification card to the police. Acting on that information, DeMatteo traced the check to a Webster Bank branch, located on Park Street in Hartford, and an account owned by Alexandra Colon, the mother of the defendant’s daughter.

On August 6, 2013, Detective George Watson, while driving an unmarked police vehicle, stopped at an intersection in the north end of Hartford. Watson observed the defendant and Christian, whom he recognized from flyers circulating within his department, pull alongside his vehicle. The defendant then “took off.” Watson, along with other Hartford police officers, pursued the vehicle until the defendant drove into the back of a building complex that had no exit. The defendant and Christian abandoned the vehicle, jumped a nearby fence, and continued on foot. The defendant was not apprehended but dropped his cell phone as he was exiting the vehicle. The cell phone was recovered by

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Police Department on August 17, 2013. DeJesus was shown an array of nine photographs and selected the fifth photograph, that of the defendant, indicating that he was “pretty sure” that the individual in photograph five was the shooter.