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**Mercer County Homicide Task Force Arrests Two Trenton Men for the  
Murder of Julio Cesar Cruz Cruz**

**TRENTON** – Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Trenton Police Director Ralph Rivera Jr. announced today the arrest of two 18-year-old Trenton men for the February 15 death of Julio Cesar Cruz Cruz.

Michael Holman and Dante Martin are each charged with first-degree felony murder and robbery for causing Cruz's death while in the course of committing a theft. Felony murder carries a penalty of 30 years to life in state prison.

Holman and Martin were taken into custody and charged early this morning by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force. Holman was arrested in close proximity to where the homicide occurred. Martin was charged at the prosecutor's office.

The arrests are the result of a tenacious investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force. Through witness interviews, neighborhood canvassing, and viewing hours and hours of surveillance video downloaded from local businesses, officers were able to identify and locate the suspects.

"The arrests made in this case are in very large part due to the assistance offered by local businesses through access to their video systems, and the willingness of concerned citizens to step up and be heard," Bocchini said. He also praised the tireless efforts of the homicide task force and its use of old fashioned police work in developing information to identify and charge Holman and Martin.

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“I commend the outstanding efforts put forth by members of the Mercer County Homicide Task Force identifying and bringing to justice those individuals responsible for this senseless act,” Rivera said. “As police director of the city of Trenton, I reaffirm my commitment to the community by continuing to work with the residents of this city. Together, we can bring forth positive change and improve our quality of life so we can all live without fear.”

Nineteen-year-old Julio Cesar Cruz was returning to his Rusling Avenue home at approximately 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, February 15, when he was approached by two assailants in an apparent robbery attempt. The victim was able to bang on the front door and call for help. Another resident of the home immediately looked out a window and saw the two assailants throw the victim to the ground, causing what would become a fatal head injury. When other people inside of the home came out to assist Cruz, the assailants fled in different directions. The victim was transported to St. Francis Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Both Holman and Martin are being held in the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$1 million bail.

The task force has been operating since November 2013. Under the command of Mercer County Prosecutor’s Captain Robert Dispoto and Lieutenant Rich Frascella, the task force is comprised of officers with the prosecutor’s office, the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office, the New Jersey State Police, and the Lawrence, Trenton and West Windsor police departments. Assistant Prosecutor James Scott is prosecuting the case.

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

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