



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Bloomington Teen Sentenced to 30 Years for 2023 Murder

Bloomington, IL - On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, Luis Monroy Jr. was sentenced to 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the 2023 murder of Nicholas Zapata.

On September 23, 2023, deputies from McLean County Sheriff's Office and officers from Bloomington Police Department responded to the 300 block of Kenmore for a reported stabbing. Officers on the scene attempted life-saving measures. The victim, 19-year-old Nicholas Zapata of Normal, was transported to Carle BroMenn Medical Center, where he was later pronounced deceased. An autopsy determined he died from multiple stab wounds to the chest.

Witnesses indicated a 16-year-old male, Luis Monroy Jr., followed the victim after leaving a party and, without provocation, stabbed him multiple times with a knife before fleeing the scene. Monroy was taken into custody later that night at a rural address near Heyworth without incident. At that location, officers found evidence Monroy had tried to burn the clothing he was wearing prior to being arrested.

On Wednesday, Monroy, now 18, pleaded guilty to first degree murder. He was sentenced to a total of 30 years in prison. He is required to serve 100% of the sentence. However, because Monroy was under 21 at the time of the offense, under Illinois Law, he will be eligible for parole after serving 20 years.

"The family deserved justice and closure after losing their loved one. I am hopeful the outcome of the criminal investigation and sentencing provides some relief for them," stated Chief Jamal Simington. "I am thankful for the efforts of the Bloomington officers and detectives, the McLean County deputies, and our public safety dispatchers; their collaboration was superb."

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

Media Contact:

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