



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY
201 WEST MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450
WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380-0989
TELEPHONE: (610) 344-6801

CHRISTOPHER DE BARRENA-SAROBE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ERIN O'BRIEN
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DAVID SASSA
CHIEF, COUNTY DETECTIVES

MAURICE NADACHOWSKI
LIEUTENANT, COUNTY DETECTIVES

For more information contact Dana Moore, Director of Communications, at dtmoore@chesco.org or 610-344-4415

August 11, 2025

NEWS RELEASE: KENNETT SQUARE MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER THAT OCCURRED DURING AN ATTEMPTED CAR THEFT

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the Kennett Township Police Department announce the arrest of Javier Rivera, 33, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for First Degree Murder and related charges. The Defendant was arrested during the early morning hours of August 11, 2025, and is currently held in Chester County Prison without bail.

The criminal complaint¹ filed by the Chester County Detectives and Kennett Township Police Department indicates that during the evening of August 10, 2025, the Defendant attempted to steal a BMW from the driveway of a residence in Kennett Township. The victim, a 69-year-old resident of the home and owner of the car, began to argue with the Defendant. The victim chased the Defendant up the driveway, and at some point, the Defendant stabbed the victim in the torso and neck, killing him.

After stabbing the victim, the Defendant then fled on foot and then stole a series of cars to evade capture. At one point, the Defendant crashed into a gray Honda Accord and then, when the drivers got out to exchange information, the Defendant stole that gray Accord. Later, the Defendant drove a stolen car to West Chester and was confronted by two residents after he broke into a home on New Street. In the end, the Defendant returned to his Kennet Square home in a stolen Honda CRV. He was located there by police wearing the same clothing reported by

¹ The Defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

witnesses, and he had a laceration on his right palm, and a reddish-brown substance—consistent with dried blood—on his shoes and shirt.

Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe said, “This quiet community was shattered by senseless violence. Thankfully Chester County law enforcement was able to work together to identify and capture this Defendant quickly before he could hurt others.”

Kennett Township Police Chief Matthew Gordon stated, “This was a brutal attack on an elderly man that shocks the conscience. There was no reason for anyone to be stabbed.”

The Chester County Detectives are the lead investigating agency and received assistance from the Kennett Township Police Department, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Kennett Square Police Department, Southern Chester County Regional Police Department, and the West Chester Police Department. If anyone has information about this investigation, they should contact the Chester County Detectives at (610) 344-6866.

Approved for release by Christopher L. de Barrena-Sarobe, District Attorney