

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
Monique H. Worrell, State Attorney

415 North Orange Avenue | Orlando, FL 32801
Contact: PIO@sao9.org | Website: <https://www.sao9.net/>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from State Attorney Monique Worrell

ORANGE COUNTY, FL (August 24, 2026) — Today’s verdict represents accountability for a horrific act of violence that turned a night meant for community, celebration, and joy into one of unimaginable loss. What should have been an ordinary Halloween evening in downtown Orlando – families out together, friends celebrating, our community simply enjoying itself – instead became a night that forever changed the lives of innocent victims, their families, and our entire community.

No verdict can undo the suffering caused by these crimes. But this verdict ensures that the defendant is held accountable for the choices he made and the devastating consequences of those choices – consequences that will also be carried by his own family. A reminder that violence leaves a wound far wider than the person who commits it.

I am proud of the prosecutors who handled this case with determination, compassion, and professionalism, and I want to thank the Orlando Police Department, investigators, first responders, and every law enforcement professional who worked tirelessly to bring this case before a jury.

Most importantly, today is about the victims. It is about the lives that were stolen and can never be given back. It is about the survivors who will carry these wounds, seen and unseen, for the rest of their lives. It is about the families who will set an empty place at every holiday table, who will hear a song or see a costume and be pulled right back to that night. Their strength has carried this case as much as any piece of evidence, and it will carry this community long after today’s headlines fade. We owe them more than a verdict. We owe them our continued commitment to fight for a community where no family has to bury a loved one because of someone else’s violence.

The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to over 1.9 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Belal Jaber at BJaber@sao9.org and Samantha Muchard at SMuchard@sao9.org.

Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.