

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 20, 2023

NICHOLAS ORTIZ SENTENCED TO SERVE 12 YEARS IN SOLICITATION TO COMMIT MURDER FOR HIRE CONVICTIONS

PORTSMOUTH, VA- On November 20, 2023, Nicholas Louis Ortiz was sentenced to serve an active sentence of 12 years for a murder for hire plot that took place on October 18, 2022.

Ortiz was found guilty of 2 counts of Solicitation to Commit Murder for Hire and 2 counts of Felony Obstruction of Justice on August 30, 2023.

Ortiz was sentenced to 25 years with 13 years suspended on each count of Solicitation to Commit Murder for Hire. Ortiz was also sentenced to 5 years with 5 years suspended for each count of Felony Obstruction of Justice. All periods of active incarceration and suspended time are to run concurrently.

The suspended time is contingent on 5 years of supervised probation with the special condition of no contact with either victim.

On October 18, 2022, an undercover operation was conducted where Ortiz spoke to a person that he thought to be a "hitman" via jail call. Ortiz wished to have two victims killed due to them willing to testify against him in upcoming cases. Ortiz was in fact speaking to an undercover Portsmouth Police Detective. Ortiz gave intimate details about the potential victims to help orchestrate their murders.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Bernardine Gerlach and Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Christopher Warman handled the prosecution of this matter.

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