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## B R E A K I N G N E W S

### Man gets 2 life sentences for 2005 Providence murder

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June 2, 2008 6:25 pm

By Mike McKinney

PROVIDENCE -- A Cranston man already serving time got more today -- a lot more.

Tracey Barros, 29, was sentenced to two consecutive life terms' imprisonment -- plus 10 more years -- after firing five bullets into an unarmed Providence man three years ago, killing him.

Barros has been serving a seven-year prison sentence after pleading no contest in August 2006 to possessing a pistol without a permit and possessing a firearm after having committed a crime of violence.

Today, Judge Robert Krause added consecutive life terms on two of the four counts on which he was convicted in the Providence slaying -- one count of first-degree murder and one count of discharging a firearm while committing a crime of violence, death resulting.

The Attorney General's Office said that Krause also sentenced Barros to 10 years to serve at the ACI on one count of conspiracy to commit murder, concurrent with his sentence for first-degree murder, and 10 years to serve on one count of carrying a pistol without a permit, to be served consecutive to the two life sentences.

On April 27, 2005, officers had found the victim in the case, Deivy Felipe, 26, also known as David Felipe, dead at the wheel of a parked Ford Explorer on Althea Street just after 1 a.m.

-- projo.com staff writer Michael P. McKinney, with Journal archival reports

Eight months later, on Dec. 29, officers patrolling the South Providence neighborhood arrested Barros after seeing him go into a Taylor Street home with a gun stuffed in his back pocket. He was arrested on an unrelated gun charge and said during questioning that he had received the gun from Tonea "Nut" Simms.

In an unrelated incident, Simms had been shot and killed the night before, according to the Attorney General's Office.

Under questioning, Barros said that shortly after he had been released from the ACI -- on April 15, 2005 -- he had shot a person sitting in a Ford Explorer in Providence. Barros said that although he didn't know the person, he had seen him twice before with Simms. He also said the person he shot owed Simms money.

Barros -- when shown Felipe's driver's license -- identified Felipe as his victim, the Attorney General's Office said. He also identified the Ford Explorer as the car Felipe was in.

When questioned on whether he realized he had killed Felipe, Barros "appeared shocked and stated he didn't

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know Felipe was dead because he had left town for Washington, D.C., immediately after the shooting," according to the Attorney General's Office.

Barros refused to have his statement recorded unless he saw a photo confirming the death of Tonia Simms. After seeing an autopsy photo, he gave a recorded statement, including that he killed Felipe because Felipe owed Simms money and because Felipe was with people who had killed Barros's cousin.

But a police search of murder-victim databases did not find a victim with the name provided by Barros as belonging to his so-called cousin.

A jury convicted Barros of the Felipe murder in January, after Barros's first trial ended in a hung jury in June 2007. He has been held without bail at the ACI since Dec. 31, 2005.

"Given his lengthy record and obvious lack of remorse, it's apparent that any attempt to rehabilitate this defendant would prove hopeless," Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch said in the statement. "Judge Krause has imposed a sentence that will prevent this vicious criminal from ever harming another individual in free society again."

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