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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Northampton County Office of the District Attorney  
Stephen G. Baratta, District Attorney  
July 16, 2026**

**MAN SENTENCED FOLLOWING GUILTY VERDICT FOR 2025 DUI WITH  
SERIOUS INJURY TO PEDESTRIAN**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Northampton County District Attorney Stephen G. Baratta announces that on July 15, 2026, Leroy Mendez, of Bethlehem, was sentenced to a total of 8 years and 8 months to 19 years in state prison. This sentence comes after Mendez was found guilty of Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Assault by Vehicle While DUI, Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury, Insurance Fraud, DUI, and DUI-related offenses following a non-jury trial on April 27, 2026.

On July 19, 2025, at approximately 1:32 a.m., Bethlehem City Police, Bethlehem City Fire Department, and Bethlehem City EMS responded to the area of East 4th Street in Bethlehem for a report of a pedestrian struck by a vehicle, which then fled the scene. The victim, 24-year-old Erykah Ramos, was thrown into the air by the impact and landed on the street, where first responders administered immediate treatment for life-threatening injuries. Ms. Ramos was subsequently transported to the nearest hospital for further treatment. Ms. Ramos sustained numerous serious injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, and will require extensive, lifelong medical care.

During the investigation, police obtained city surveillance footage from the surrounding area, which captured the vehicle striking the victim, colliding with a parked vehicle, and fleeing the scene. The vehicle was determined to be registered to Mendez. Later that morning, officers located the vehicle at Mendez's residence and observed visible damage. Officers made contact with Mendez at his residence and learned that he had filed an insurance claim earlier that morning, stating another vehicle had sideswiped his car. While speaking to Mendez, officers observed signs of impairment and administered field sobriety tests. Mendez was subsequently transported for a blood draw,

which revealed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.126%, but was determined to be between 0.17% to 0.27% at the time of the incident. Further surveillance footage obtained by police showed Mendez committing numerous traffic violations while driving aimlessly and in a reckless manner in the period leading up to the incident. Mendez was charged with Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Assault by Vehicle While DUI, Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury, Insurance Fraud, DUI, and DUI-related offenses. On April 27, 2026, Mendez proceeded to a non-jury trial before the Honorable Judge Paula A. Roscioli and was found guilty of all 12 counts.

On July 15, 2026, Mendez was sentenced to a total of 8 years and 8 months to 19 years in state prison. This case was investigated by Detective Andrew Yost of the Bethlehem City Police Department and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Debra Naish and Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Kocher.

All further inquiries should be directed to the Northampton County Office of the District Attorney.

Easton, Pennsylvania

July 16, 2026

**END**