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Albuquerque Teen Arrested for Random Killing of Uber Driver

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— Categories: Crime



An 18-year-old Albuquerque resident appeared in court after being arrested for the fatal shooting of an Uber driver early Thursday morning. Sheliky Sanchez faces multiple charges, including first-degree murder, following the killing of Joseph Andrus.

According to police reports and court documents, Sanchez admitted to shooting Andrus several times. He told investigators that the attack was a way to “let off some steam.”

Sanchez asked his girlfriend to order an Uber ride because he was feeling stressed and

needed an outlet. Unable to direct his anger at specific people, he said he wanted to take it out on whoever he could find.

Sanchez reportedly scanned available Uber drivers and chose Andrus. During the ride, the two had a long conversation, with Sanchez telling police Andrus “was actually really cool.” Upon reaching a home on Merlida Street in Southwest Albuquerque, Sanchez ordered Andrus out of the car and then shot him multiple times. Andrus died at the scene.

Sanchez admitted feeling some remorse, saying he “felt bad for him a little bit, but just getting that satisfaction out, out of the way. It’s like a relief. Like taking an in and out breath.” After the shooting, Sanchez stole the vehicle, which was later found at his girlfriend’s house in the same area.

When questioned by police if the Uber ride was arranged to steal the car or harm the driver, Sanchez confirmed it was “to shoot him.” Asked why he picked Andrus specifically, Sanchez replied, “he seemed like a good guy,” adding, “I don’t go for good people.”

Uber released a statement through Andrew Hasbun, head of safety communications: “We are shocked and heartbroken for Joseph’s family and loved ones after this senseless attack. We’ve been in contact with the police and are grateful for their work to bring those responsible to justice.”

Sheliky Sanchez’s court appearance is the first step in a legal process that will address this tragic crime. Authorities continue to investigate all details surrounding the case.