

# State Drops Charges In 2015 Shooting

## Prosecutor: Evidence Questionable

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HARTFORD — A prosecutor on Wednesday dropped charges that include attempted murder against a Hartford man in connection with a Hillside Avenue shooting.

Anthony Torres, 23, was accused of shooting a man in the face on Feb. 14, 2015. He was arrested about a month later when Hartford police found him in Berlin.

In Hartford, Prosecutor Anne Mahoney told Superior Court Judge Carl E. Taylor that Torres' defense attorney, Salvatore Bonanno of Hartford, presented her with evidence that raised questions about the state's case.

Mahoney said she consulted the state medical examiner about the victim's wounds and how the victim said they occurred. The explanation provided by the defense made more sense, she said.

“The state cannot sustain its burden beyond a reasonable doubt,” Mahoney said.

Outside court, Bonanno said his review of the medical records and photos of the victim, along with the investigation of the case, raised several questions, including whether the victim was even shot.

“Nobody heard gunshots,” Bonanno said. “No shell casings found. There were no witnesses. No one saw anything.”

The victim's statements also were inconsistent, he said.

He said he told Mahoney that the scuttlebutt on the street was that two men assaulted and pistol-whipped the victim and broke his jaw. The victim feared identifying those men because of gang affiliations, so he pinned it on Torres, with whom he had a prior beef, Bonanno said.

“I don't believe the guy was even shot,” Bonanno said.

Bonanno praised Mahoney for considering the evidence and questions he presented to her.

“My client is grateful she did her due diligence,” Bonanno said.



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