



**OFFICE OF THE
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DELAWARE MAN SENTENCED TO 70 YEARS TO SERVE
FOR MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF MOTEL OWNERS**

ELKTON- On Monday, April 24, 2023, Hakeem M. Evans, 28, of Newark, Delaware was sentenced for the murder of Usha Patel and the attempted murder of Dilip Patel, spouses and owners of the New Eastern Motel in Elkton, MD.

The incident occurred on March 5, 2021, at the New Eastern Motel. Evans, a guest of the motel at the time, had been requested to leave the premises and a verbal argument between the two parties ensued. During the argument, Evans produced a handgun and fired three (3) shots at the Patels through the opening of the plexiglass window. Officers of the Elkton Police Department responded to the scene having already been enroute from when the Patels previous call ended abruptly. Upon arrival, officers found Usha Patel had been struck in the chest and, tragically, died from her injuries at the scene. Dilip Patel was struck in the lower back and rushed to Christiana Hospital where he was treated and later recovered from his physical injuries. The incident was recorded on CCTV in the motel lobby.

On October 24, 2022, the Defendant entered a guilty plea to Murder in the Second Degree of Usha Patel, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree of Dilip Patel, Use of a Handgun in the Commission of a Crime of Violence, and Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm; the Defendant

was prohibited from possessing a handgun due to a prior conviction in his home state of Delaware. On April 24, 2023, Cecil County Circuit Court Judge Keith A. Baynes imposed a total sentence of 80 years, with all but 70 years suspended, to serve in the Division of Corrections. Of Evans' sentence, the first 10 years are not eligible for parole. Upon release, the Defendant will serve 5 years of supervised probation. In addition to his sentence, Evans has been ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$13,0033.98 for Usha Patel's funeral expenses and Dilip Patel's medical expenses.

Cecil County State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer says of this sentence, "The level of violence in this case, along with the use of a handgun, is not and will not be tolerated in Cecil County. My condolences are with Dilip Patel and his family as they have had to mourn the loss of Usha while also dedicating themselves to working with our office in the pursuit of justice for both her and Dilip. The Patels have been long-standing business owners as well as beloved members of this community, and the loss of Mrs. Patel is a loss to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. I hope now that Mr. Evans has been sentenced for his crimes the Patel family can properly mourn and heal from this tragedy. I also want to extend my gratitude to Chief Carolyn Rogers and the Elkton Police Department for their hard work on this investigation and their continued service to this community."