



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**May 6, 2026**

**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Elijah L. Lucena (DOB: 1/27/1997)** was found guilty of First Degree Murder with the firearm enhancement after a two day jury trial before the Honorable Judge Ronald White.

On April 2, 2022, Cherry Valley Police and Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the Cherry Vale Mall in front of Macy's in reference to a call of shots fired. Cherry Valley Officers observed a white Dodge Charger with a black roof and black spoiler leaving the area at a high rate of speed. Upon arrival, responding officers found a black male, later identified as Marcus McLin, laying in the parking lot directly South of Macy's. McLin was deceased and had multiple gunshot wounds. Officers observed shell casings throughout the parking lot. Rockford Police Officers were familiar with the vehicle seen fleeing the scene and knew it was registered to the defendant, Elijah Lucena. During trial, prosecutors showed video surveillance of the incident. Elijah Lucena can be seen entering the mall through Macy's. A few minutes prior to the shooting, McLin, can be seen entering the same doorway the suspect entered through. McLin is seen on video shopping before being confronted by Lucena. They have a verbal altercation and McLin is seen backing out of the store. The victim then runs south through the parking lot with Lucena running after him, producing a firearm and firing shots. Lucena can then be seen entering the Charger and leaving the parking lot at a high rate of speed.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of mandatory supervised release. Lucena is eligible for an additional 25 years in prison since the jury found the firearm enhancement was proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Lucena is scheduled to be back in court on May 27, 2026, in front of Judge White in Courtroom 316 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

The Cherry Valley Police, Rockford Police and Winnebago County Sheriff's Departments conducted the investigation in this case. First Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue and Steve Gregorowicz are handling the prosecution.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney  
815-319-4700