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**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES  
AARON ROBERTSON CONVICTED OF MURDER OF LUIS BARAHONA REYES**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that Aaron Robertson, 31, was convicted by a jury of second-degree murder for killing Luis Barahona Reyes, 50, on June 10, 2023.

Robertson and Mr. Barahona Reyes were unknown to each other when they got off the same bus on Draper Street in Fairfax City around 11pm on the night of June 9, 2023. After a brief conversation, Robertson lured Mr. Barahona Reyes to a parking lot behind 9715 Fairfax Blvd, where Robertson knocked the victim unconscious. Robertson later returned to the scene in the early morning hours of June 10, where he proceeded to beat, stab, and eventually kill Mr. Barahona Reyes. Robertson then left and returned third time to clean up the scene and try to dispose of the victim's body.

Substantial forensic evidence introduced at trial connected Robertson to the murder, including the victim's blood on his shoes and Robertson's own DNA under the victim's fingernails. Camera footage and eyewitness accounts from nearby Wawa and 7-11 stores also showed Robertson entering and exiting multiple times to wash his hands throughout the early hours of June 10.

Prosecutors argued that Robertson attacked and killed the victim because Mr. Barahona Reyes propositioned Robertson for sex in their first conversation after getting off the bus.

"I'm personally dismayed this type of crime could happen in this day and age, especially in a community like Fairfax County that prides itself on being welcoming," said CA Descano. "Mr. Barahona Reyes' death is tragic, and the fact that he may have been killed for his sexuality only further adds to the injustice."

Robertson will be sentenced on July 26, 2024 and faces up to 40 years for the second-degree murder charge.

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