



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OTERO COUNTY JURY CONVICTS DEFENDANT OF TAMPERING WITH
EVIDENCE IN CROSS-STATE HOMICIDE CASE**

March 18, 2026

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Ryan Suggs announces that an Otero County jury found Jevare Freeman-Handy guilty of tampering with evidence on March 16, 2026, following a jury trial in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

On November 17, 2021, Freeman-Handy killed Rodolfo Fuentes in El Paso, Texas. Following the homicide, Freeman-Handy, along with his girlfriend, Sunshine Urbina, placed Fuentes' body into Fuentes' vehicle and transported it to Chaparral, New Mexico. On December 7, 2021, Fuentes' body was discovered inside his vehicle at a tow yard in Chaparral.

Freeman-Handy later provided a statement to law enforcement admitting that he drove Fuentes' vehicle to Chaparral but denied knowledge that Fuentes' body was inside the vehicle concealed under a pile of clothing in the back seat.

A sentencing hearing will be set before the Honorable Angie K. Schneider at a later date. Freeman-Handy faces up to three years in prison for tampering with evidence, as well as an additional four years as a habitual offender based on prior felony convictions, including Attempted Murder in 2010 and Harassment of a Public Servant in 2020.

Freeman-Handy is currently serving a 20-year sentence out of El Paso, Texas for the murder of Rodolfo Fuentes. He is also facing additional charges for battering a police officer while in custody at the Otero County Detention Center awaiting trial.

Members of Fuentes' family were present for the trial and expressed great relief that justice was served and that Freeman-Handy was held accountable for his actions.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel Sewell. This case was investigated by the Otero County Sheriff's Office, the Twelfth Judicial Major Crimes Unit, the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Investigations Unit and El Paso Police Department.

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