

# Man found guilty of Kidnapping

An Elizabeth man was found guilty this morning in Union County Superior Court of 1st Degree Kidnapping, said Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow.

Marcus Zapata DOB: 11/22/1986 was arrested on July 21, 2010 following an investigation by the Elizabeth Police Department, said Assistant Prosecutor Jamel K. Semper who prosecuted the three-day trial.

According to the investigation, on November 21, 2009 Zapata entered his ex-girlfriend's car armed with a knife while the woman was attempting to park at her house on 1st Avenue in Elizabeth, said Semper. Zapata forced the woman to drive to Mantano Park where he held her at knifepoint for nearly two hours.

He then forced her to drive back to her 1st Avenue apartment and fled the vehicle when a bystander saw Zapata and the victim struggling inside the car. He managed to avoid capture for several months before he was finally arrested in Newark.

The jury spent an hour and fifteen minutes deliberating. Zapata faces up to 30 years in prison when he is sentenced on August 25, 2011.