



## **Chilling 911 calls in Maplewood double killing reveal efforts to save au pair, describe her killer**

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As Karen Bermudez-Rodriguez lay bleeding from stab wounds early Saturday on a quiet residential street in Maplewood, neighbors urgently pleaded with the 26-year-old au pair to hold on as emergency responders rushed to the scene, chilling 911 calls released Wednesday by authorities reveal.

One of the callers told the 911 dispatcher Bermudez-Rodriguez had a wound to her neck and described a man running from the scene. Then, he tried to comfort Bermudez-Rodriguez.

“You’re gonna be fine,” he said softly. “Just hang in there. The ambulance is coming, they’ll take care of you.”

Another 911 caller immediately told the dispatcher that Bermudez-Rodriguez’s wounds were severe.

“Someone attacked her,” the caller said. “I think she’s bleeding to death.”

Bermudez-Rodriguez was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Police would later find the au pair’s employer, David Kimowitz, a 40-year-old who ran a New York comedy club, stabbed to death in his home on Walton Road.

Police say Joseph D. Porter, 27, of Elizabeth, was the man the neighbors saw running from where he left his girlfriend, Bermudez-Rodriguez, shortly after 6 a.m. The two had exchanged text messages between 1:30 and 2 a.m. and Bermudez-Rodriguez told him their relationship was over, authorities said.

At some point after the exchange, Porter used a key Bermudez-Rodriguez had given him to enter the Kimowitz home, where he stabbed Kimowitz to death in a second-floor bedroom, authorities said. He then bound Bermudez-Rodriguez’s hands, but she managed to run from the house with her hands still wrapped in tape, authorities said.

Porter caught up with her several hundred feet away on Woodland Avenue and stabbed her with a different knife, authorities said. That’s the attack witnessed by the neighbors who called 911, authorities said.

“Do you know who did this to you?” one of the 911 callers asked Bermudez-Rodriguez, after giving the dispatcher a description of her attacker. He was wearing a green shirt and sweatpants, the caller said.

“You’re not gonna find him,” he said.

Police arrested Porter as he tried to take a flight from Newark airport to Cancun, Mexico. He remains in jail on two murder charges and weapons offenses. Porter, who had previously been divorced, has a first court hearing scheduled for next week.

Two services are scheduled for Wednesday.

Kimowitz’s funeral will be at 1 p.m. in Livingston, at the Berheim-Apter-Kreitzman Suburban Funeral Chapel.

In Maplewood, Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church will host a vigil for Bermudez-Rodriguez at 7 p.m.