

**Supreme Court of the State of New York**  
**Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department**

D56868  
G/htr

\_\_\_\_\_AD3d\_\_\_\_\_

Argued - June 14, 2018

REINALDO E. RIVERA, J.P.  
CHERYL E. CHAMBERS  
BETSY BARROS  
VALERIE BRATHWAITE NELSON, JJ.

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2016-07633

DECISION & ORDER

The People, etc., respondent, v Chaka Hunter,  
appellant.

(Ind. No. 2800/15)

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Paul Skip Laisure, New York, NY (Rebecca J. Gannon of counsel), for appellant.

Richard A. Brown, District Attorney, Kew Gardens, NY (John M. Castellano, Johnette Traill, and William H. Branigan of counsel; Rachel N. Houle on the brief), for respondent.

Appeal by the defendant from a judgment of the Supreme Court, Queens County (Charles S. Lopresto, J.), rendered July 7, 2016, convicting him of menacing in the second degree, upon a jury verdict, and imposing sentence.

ORDERED that the judgment is affirmed.

The defendant's contention that the People failed to present legally sufficient evidence to sustain his conviction of menacing in the second degree (Penal Law § 120.14[1]) is unpreserved for appellate review (*see People v Hawkins*, 11 NY3d 484, 492; *People v Gray*, 86 NY2d 10, 19). In any event, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution (*see People v Contes*, 60 NY2d 620), we find that it was legally sufficient to establish the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Moreover, in fulfilling our responsibility to conduct an independent review of the weight of the evidence (*see CPL 470.15[5]*; *People v Danielson*, 9 NY3d 342, 348-349), we nevertheless accord great deference to the jury's opportunity to view the witnesses, hear the testimony, and observe demeanor (*see People v Mateo*, 2 NY3d 383, 410; *People v Bleakley*, 69 NY2d 490, 495). Upon reviewing the record here, we are satisfied that the verdict of guilt was not

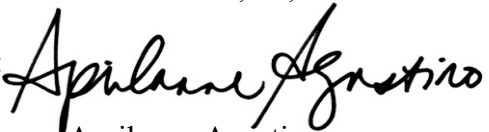
October 17, 2018

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against the weight of the evidence (*see People v Romero*, 7 NY3d 633).

RIVERA, J.P., CHAMBERS, BARROS and BRATHWAITE NELSON, JJ., concur.

ENTER:   
Aprilanne Agostino  
Clerk of the Court