



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## Press Releases

### **MAN CHARGED WITH MURDERING HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND IN GREENFIELD IN 2010**

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Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Noel Aguilera Ledesma, age 43 and currently a resident of Yuma, Arizona, has been arrested and charged with the cold-case murder of his ex-girlfriend, Yvette Martinez, in 2010.

On October 10, 2010, a vehicle was discovered burning off of Highway 198 at Priest Valley Road. The vehicle was registered to 22-year-old Yvette Martinez of Greenfield. Investigators discovered Ms. Martinez's body inside the trunk of her vehicle. Her death was ruled a homicide.

Initial investigation by the Monterey County Sheriff's Office established that Ms. Martinez had previously been in a dating relationship with Ledesma. While Ledesma was a suspect in the initial investigation, no arrests were made.

In July 2020, District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni created the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Task Force, which represents the largest and most comprehensive county-wide effort to investigate, solve and prosecute cold-case homicides in Monterey County. The Task Force began investigating this case in 2022 and discovered new evidence which resulted in a judicially approved warrant for Ledesma's arrest. The members of the Task Force who worked on this case are ADA Matt L'Heureux, investigators from the DA Bureau of Investigation, and former Monterey PD Assistant Chief Bill Clark. District Attorney Investigators arrested Ledesma on February 4, 2025, with the assistance of the Yuma Police Department.

No further details about the case will be released at this time to preserve the integrity of the investigation and future court proceedings.

In January 2022, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Task Force received a \$535,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant, titled "FY 2021 Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA," provides funding to support forensic testing and investigative activities in the prosecution of cold cases where DNA from a suspect has been identified. Funding from the U.S. Department of Justice grant enabled the Cold Case Task

Force to seek justice in this case.

Anyone with information about the murder of Yvette Martinez is encouraged to contact District Attorney Investigator Oliver Minnig at (831) 784-5648.

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