



COUNTY OF MONTEREY OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Releases

TWO SEASIDE NORTENO GANG MEMBERS PLEAD GUILTY TO MURDER

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Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Arcadio Perez-Ruiz, 26, of Seaside, and Enrique Lopez Velazco, 28, also of Seaside, entered guilty pleas to the July 3, 2014 murder of Andre Jacobs, 28, of Seaside. Perez-Ruiz pled guilty to first-degree murder, a weapon enhancement, and street terrorism. Velazco pled guilty to second-degree murder and street terrorism.

In the early morning hours of July 3, 2014, Mr. Jacobs purchased coffee then left his father a voicemail wishing him a happy birthday as he walked on Elm Ave. in Seaside on his way to work for a local moving company. Minutes later, Norteno gang members Velazco, Perez-Ruiz, and a juvenile departed a drive-thru at a Seaside fast food restaurant in Velazco's Lexus, proceeded onto Elm Ave., and observed Mr. Jacobs walking on Elm Ave. Because Mr. Jacobs was Black and in his 20's, the Nortenos concluded that Mr. Jacobs was a rival gang member. Velazco stopped his Lexus on Elm Ave. and Perez-Ruiz and the juvenile got out, chased and stabbed Mr. Jacobs to death. Residents in the area called 911 after they heard Mr. Jacobs' screams for help during this attack. Police officers responded and discovered Mr. Jacobs deceased on the front steps of an Elm Ave. residence. Mr. Jacobs was not a gang member, was a valued employee of the moving company, the father of a young child, and left behind a large extended family.

Detectives located surveillance footage of Velazco's Lexus from the fast-food drive-thru and observed it enter Elm Ave. just before Mr. Jacobs' murder. Search warrants of Velazco's social media accounts revealed group messages between Velazco, Perez-Ruiz, the juvenile, and other Seaside Norteno gang members. In messages just four days after Mr. Jacobs' murder, Perez-Ruiz bragged about stabbing someone, called himself "Arcadio187," the Penal Code section for murder, and boasted that he committed a stabbing on behalf of the Norteno criminal street gang.

In 2018, detectives obtained a recording where Perez-Ruiz detailed his, Velazco's, and the juvenile's involvement in Mr. Jacobs' murder. Because of Perez-Ruiz's statements in this recording, the People were able to charge Perez-Ruiz, Velazco, and the juvenile with Mr. Jacobs' murder. Both defendants will be sentenced by Superior Court Judge Mark E. Hood on February 23, 2023. Perez-Ruiz will receive

a 26 years-Life sentence and Velazco will receive a 15 years-Life sentence.

The juvenile was 15 years old when he committed Mr. Jacobs' murder. Though he was charged with Mr. Jacobs' murder in 2018 when he was 19, changes in law meant the People could not prosecute him as an adult. In 2019, in juvenile court, the juvenile entered an admission (the equivalent of a guilty plea) to first-degree murder, a weapon enhancement, and street terrorism. The juvenile was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice where he will remain, at the very latest, until his 25th birthday.

Seaside Police Detective Edwardo Enriquez served as lead detective in this case. Investigators assigned to Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Team (PRVNT) from Carmel-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside, and Marina Police Departments also assisted in this investigation.

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