

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY
BY JURY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2015

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that a Monterey County jury has found Anthony Raymond McLaughlin, age 42, from Salinas, guilty of first degree murder. The defendant is facing a 25 year-to-life prison sentence.

On November 1, 2002, the victim, Alejandro Lopez, was found stabbed to death in his Salinas apartment. Despite extensive efforts, the Salinas Police Department was never able to identify a suspect for the murder.

On February 13, 2013, the defendant told a probation officer that he wished to confess to a murder. Salinas Police Detective Byron Gansen took the defendant's confession in which he admitted that he was a neighbor of Alejandro Lopez and in 2002, while drunk and high on methamphetamine, he went to the victim's apartment and killed him. The defendant took the stand during his murder trial and repeated the confession stating, "he had to put [the victim] down."

The case is set for sentencing on January 28, 2016, before Judge Larry Hayes.

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