

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE
FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Larry Hayes sentenced Anthony Raymond McLaughlin, age 42, from Salinas, to 25 years-to-life for the first degree murder of Alejandro Lopez.

On November 1, 2002, the victim was found stabbed to death in his Salinas apartment. Despite extensive efforts the Salinas Police Department was unable 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 in 2002 he was a neighbor of Alejandro Lopez and that one night when he was 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."

At today's sentencing hearing the defendant reiterated previous claims that the murder was motivated by racial animosity and he warned of upcoming terrorist violence directed toward Hispanics in the Salinas Valley.

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