

NEWS RELEASE

GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 100 YEARS TO LIFE FOR GANG MURDER

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Arnulfo Pineda, a 37-year-old gang member, who was one of the founding members of the Mexican Klan Locos (MKL) criminal street gang of King City, was sentenced to 100 years-to-life in prison for his role in the gang murder of Greenfield resident Crispin Guajardo.

On February 23, 2014, Mr. Pineda and two other unidentified gang members gunned down Crispin Guajardo as he stood in front of the Paradiso Night Club in Greenfield. Officer Corey Smith happened to be in the area on patrol when he heard numerous shots coming from the area of 102 El Camino Real. He drove to the area and saw one individual running from the scene of the shooting carrying a gun which he dropped when he saw the Officer. Several seconds later Mr. Pineda ran around the same corner also carrying a gun which he also dropped on the sidewalk by the Officer.

Officer Smith was able to take Mr. Pineda into custody a short distance from the shooting scene; however the first person that Officer Smith saw and an unknown third person who was shown to have fired shots at Mr. Guajardo escaped. Mr. Guajardo was shot ten (10) times by his assailants who fired approximately twelve (12) shots at the victim. The gun Mr. Pineda was carrying just prior to his arrest was shown to have been fired 5 times based upon the number of spent cartridges found at the scene.

The investigation indicated that the offense was in response to a series of gang related shootings between Norteno and Sureno gang members in the month previous to Mr. Guajardo's death.

At the sentencing hearing Judge Julie R. Culver denied Mr. Pineda's motion to dismiss his two (2) prior strike offenses indicating that his status as a founding member of MKL, who continued his gang activities up to the commission of this crime, did not justify such action. Judge Culver then imposed the punishment mandated by law of 100 years-to-life.

The City of Greenfield Police investigated this offense with the assistance of the Forensic Unit from the California Correctional Training Facility in Soledad.