

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **MARINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CANNERY ROW MURDER**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jorge Mendoza, age 23 of Marina, pled guilty to the murder of Raul Melendez and admitted to using a gun in the commission of the murder.

On November 23, 2016, Mendoza was illegally concealing and carrying a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol when he got into an argument with the victim while drinking at the Giant Artichoke night club in the Cannery Row area of Monterey. The argument was taken out to the street where Mendoza followed the victim from Prescott Street onto the 600 block of Wave Street. The victim was shot 6 times and ultimately died as a result of the gun-shot wounds. Mendoza fled to Mexico and after four months, with the help of Mexican Authorities, he was arrested by United States Marshalls and returned to the United States for prosecution. Mendoza has a previous conviction for being a gang member. The Giant Artichoke night club has since closed.

On August 2, 2018, Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence Mendoza to 34 years-to-life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The case was investigated by Monterey Police Department officers, Detective Greg Johnson of Carmel Police Department, and Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Taskforce (PRVNT).