



**JEANNINE M. PACIONI**  
District Attorney

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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Contact: Stefanie Zamora, Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: (831)759-6705

### **DEFENDANTS CONVICTED OF GANG RELATED ASSAULT**

*SALINAS*, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced that yesterday, Louis Gutierrez, a 39-year-old resident of Salinas, pled guilty to assault with a gang enhancement, which means the crime was committed on behalf of the Norteno Criminal Street Gang. Gutierrez also admitted two prior strike convictions for attempted murder and assault with a semiautomatic firearm. The co-defendant, 22-year-old Richard Diaz, pled no contest to felony assault on April 26, 2019.

On August 7, 2018, Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Achievement (MILPA) organized an event called “National Night Out for Safety and Liberation” at a local skate park. Gutierrez, a known Norteno gang member affiliated with the Fremont Street subset, served as an event coordinator while on active parole for attempted murder.

Gutierrez approached a 14-year-old victim sitting on his bicycle and said, “You want to take a walk with me? I’ll beat you down in slacks G.” Gutierrez then made a motion towards the victim as if to hit him, causing the victim to flinch and raise his arms to protect himself. In response, the victim called Gutierrez a “bitch.” Gutierrez then walked away just as his co-defendant, 21-year-old Richard Diaz, ran up to the victim and began to attack him stating, “You don’t call the big homie a bitch, homie.” Diaz struck the minor victim numerous times in the head and face with closed fists, eventually knocking the victim off his bike and on to the ground. While the attack was taking place, Gutierrez was heard telling the crowd, “Let em, let em.”

Diaz continued to attack the victim until Gutierrez stopped it by saying, “Alright you’re good, you’re good.” Diaz stopped striking the victim, walked away and told the victim, “You better fucking recognize where the fuck you’re at, homie.” The entire attack was captured on Snapchat video by onlookers and submitted to the Salinas Police Department.

Gutierrez will be sentenced on September 18, 2019, by the Honorable Pamela L. Butler to two years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for aiding and abetting the assault with a gang enhancement. The three-strikes law doubled the one-year term for this crime. Diaz, who has no prior felony record, was sentenced last Friday to three years on felony probation.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Detective Derek Gibson.