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PRESS RELEASE

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SEASIDE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ACCESSORY TO MURDER AND ABUSE OF A DEPENDENT ADULT

People v. Manuel Jesus Lopez Jarquin, 19CR001112

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Seaside resident Manuel Jesus Lopez Jarquin, age 30, pled guilty to abuse of a dependent adult and accessory after the fact to the 2017 murder of Courtney Ann Turney.

Lopez Jarquin is the former live-in boyfriend of Corrie Denise Arriaga, 44, who was arrested in May 2018 for Turney's death. On August 28, 2019, Arriaga pled guilty to the first-degree murder of Turney and admitted a special circumstance allegation that the murder was intentional and involved the infliction of torture. Arriaga will receive a sentence of life without parole when she is sentenced on December 13.

Turney, who attended special education classes following complications during her birth, moved to Monterey County from Oklahoma in 2008. That year, Turney began living with Arriaga in an apartment in Seaside. The investigation revealed that Arriaga began to physically abuse Turney, imprisoned her in the apartment, starved her, and forced her to perform physical labor against her will. Arriaga also embezzled significant amounts of money that Turney received from the Comanche Nation. The investigation demonstrated that Turney was imprisoned in Arriaga's apartment up until her death on August 4, 2017.

Turney's body was discovered on August 5, 2017. Although Turney weighed approximately 230 pounds when she arrived in Monterey County in 2008, she weighed only 54 pounds at the time of her autopsy. The examination revealed that Turney had a fractured skull, both recent and healed rib fractures, pressure ulcers, and bruising and swelling consistent with blunt-force trauma.

While the investigation revealed that Arriaga physically abused Turney on a regular basis, one witness also described to police an incident in late 2015 or early 2016 where Lopez Jarquin joined Arriaga in beating Turney until she lost consciousness. For that incident, Lopez Jarquin pled guilty to abuse of a dependent adult and admitted that he personally inflicted great bodily injury on Turney.

The investigation revealed no evidence that Lopez Jarquin had any direct role in Turney's murder. However, based on numerous false statements he made during police interviews to protect Arriaga, he pled guilty to accessory after the fact to the murder. He was arrested on January 30, 2019.

Lopez Jarquin will receive a term of 7 years and 8 months in state prison when he is sentenced on October 11.

As defined by California law, a dependent adult is any person who is between the ages of 18 and 64, who has physical or mental limitations which restrict his or her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights, including, but not limited to, persons who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.

The case was investigated by Detective Kevin Miller, Detective Matthew Hoffman, Sergeant Jorge Enriquez and Officer Jonathan Moore of Seaside Police Department, Investigators Oliver Minnig and Jackie Meroney of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation, and Detective Randal Dyck of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.