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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 7/13/06
Re: Leopoldo Paul Velasquez

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Leopoldo Paul Velasquez, age 22, of Modesto, was charged with first degree murder for the shooting death of Jason Bender, along with related gang and gun charges. The defendant is also charged with the special circumstance of committing the murder for the benefit of the Norteno street gang. The defendant is eligible for the death penalty and is currently being held without bail. Deputy District Attorney Wendell Emerson appeared at the arraignment on July 12, 2006. A further arraignment hearing is set for July 14, 2006

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