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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 5, 2020
Re: Pablo Virgen Mendoza
Cop killer convicted and sentenced to
life in prison without parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Pablo Virgen Mendoza, aka Gustavo Perez Arriaga, age 33 of Newman, pled guilty today to the murder of Newman Police Corporal Ronil Singh on December 26, 2018. Chief Deputy District Attorneys Marlisa Ferreira and Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Today, Mendoza pled guilty to murdering Corporal Singh and admitted three special circumstances: committing the murder in an attempt to evade arrest, killing a police officer in the performance of his duties and discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle with the intent to inflict death. He also admitted two enhancements, that he acted intentionally, deliberately and with premeditation as well as intentionally discharging a firearm causing death.

As part of the plea agreement, Mendoza agreed to waive his right to appeal any errors in the case in the future. In return for the pleas, admissions and waiver of appellate rights, the District Attorney's Office agreed to drop seeking the death penalty in this case in return for an agreed sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

When he was arrested, Mendoza admitted to detectives that he was driving his pickup truck in the town of Newman, in Stanislaus County, when he was stopped by Corporal Singh on December 26, 2018. After Corporal Singh made contact with him, Mendoza became afraid he was going to be arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He retrieved a handgun from between the seats and began loading it. As Corporal Singh was walking back to his vehicle, Mendoza fired several rounds through the open driver's window hitting and killing the Officer.

During the hearing, Corporal Singh's family made victim statements for the record, detailing how their loved one's senseless murder has affected them.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Ricardo Cordova sentenced Mendoza to serve the remainder of his life in state prison without any possibility of parole plus a consecutive sentence of 25 years to life for intentionally discharging a firearm causing death.

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