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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: December 18, 2013  
Re: Luis Manuel Tafolla

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Luis Tafolla, age 24, of Ceres, was sentenced on December 10, 2013 to 7 years plus 25 years to life for the attempted murder of Eric Carrillo. Deputy District Attorney Beth O'Hara Owen prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 30, 2007, Eric Carrillo, age 16, was grounded from his cell phone and wanted to call his girlfriend. He took the phone and left his house without his father knowing. He was wearing a red Falcon's jersey. At the same time, Tafolla, a Sureno, and three other Surenos, made a plan to go to "smoke a Norteno." They obtained a "varrio gun", and drove to Turlock, to a known Norteno area. They saw Eric Carrillo, who was not a gang member, walking near the Wakefield Elementary School. Tafolla took the gun, exited the car and approached Eric and asked him if "he banged?" Eric replied that he didn't and at that point Tafolla extended his right hand, holding a semi-automatic gun and fired two shots, while yelling, "Sureno." Eric fell to the ground. The bullet entered his face and is, to this day, lodged in his neck. He was paralyzed from the shooting.

On October 9, 2012, a jury found Tafolla guilty of attempted murder, discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury, assault with a semi-automatic firearm and participation in a criminal street gang. The jury further found that Tafolla committed the attempted murder to benefit the Sureno gang.

A motion for new trial was filed by the defense and denied on December 10, 2013.

Eric Carrillo addressed the court before sentencing and told the Court that he "was not a gang member." He also stated "I loved sports and to work on cars. This (his injury) has limited me. I'm not the type that holds a grudge against my shooter; I forgive him."

Eric Carrillo's mother, Fancy Valdez, addressed the court as well. "I feel like my son was almost murdered and that's what was meant to happen. It's a shame that somebody would want to do that to my child."

The Honorable Valli Israels sentenced Tafolla to 7 years plus 25 years to life. Tafolla must serve 85% of his 7 years sentence before he can begin his 25 years to life sentence.

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