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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 21, 2020
Re: Jose Andrews Lopez III
Murder conviction

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Andrews Lopez III, age 30, has been convicted of murder with an enhancement for using a gun in the crime and of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hoult prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On the evening of January 27, 2017, police responded to a reported shooting in the residential area of Ortega and Galvez, directly behind Memorial Hospital in Modesto. Victim Kalpesh Patel, age 39, was found at the scene with a fatal gunshot wound.

Witnesses described hearing a verbal argument at a nearby house followed by gunshots, a female screaming and seeing Patel run across the street and collapse to the ground.

Investigators discovered that Patel had been in a dating relationship with a former girlfriend of Lopez before Lopez went to prison in 2014 for domestic violence against her. When he was released from prison, Lopez became upset that she was dating Patel. On the day of the shooting, Patel and the girlfriend drove to a residence on Ortega Street, not far from where Lopez was staying, to pick up the female's clothing. Lopez confronted Patel at the house and shot him.

Lopez was eventually arrested and charged with Patel's murder. On February 18, 2020, prior to his jury trial, Lopez pled guilty to second degree murder with use of a gun and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He returns to court on March 18, 2020 when he will be sentenced to the agreed upon term of 22 years-to-life in state prison on all the charges.

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