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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 17, 2022
Re: Junior Ramiro Suarez
Jury Trial Murder Conviction

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Junior Ramiro Suarez, age 32, of Modesto has been convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of murder with an enhancement for personal use of a gun causing death, discharging a firearm at an occupied vehicle and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On August 12, 2018, victim Domonique Lewis, age 30, and his girlfriend, Shanae Brown, went to 5th and I Streets in Modesto. Investigators later discovered that Lewis was at the location to conduct a drug transaction and that Lewis had been selling fake or “bunk” pills to a friend of Suarez. As Lewis was waiting in the passenger seat of the car, Suarez and his friend walked up to the vehicle, pulled out firearms and shot Lewis three times as Brown tried to flee. She drove them to Doctor’s Medical Center where Lewis was pronounced deceased.

Modesto Police Department homicide detectives immediately took over the investigation. They interviewed Brown who directed them to the location of the shooting. Video surveillance from the nearby market captured the killing and officers were able to identify Suarez and his friend both of whom were known to the Modesto Police Department. At the time of the murder, Suarez was on parole, having been recently released from prison where he had served time for assault with a semiautomatic firearm done for the benefit of a street gang.

Both defendants were arrested and charged. After several delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Suarez went to trial before Judge Robert Westbrook. At the conclusion of a two-week trial, the jury convicted Suarez on all counts.

The case returns to court on March 21, 2022 for a court trial on Suarez’s prior convictions which may be used to enhance his sentence for the murder.

The co-defendant is set for jury trial this summer. His name is not being used to ensure he receives a fair trial without undue publicity.

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