



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Jeffrey M. Laugero

Chief Deputies
Marlisa Ferreira
Wendell Emerson
Michael D. Houston
Mark Zahner

Bureau of Investigation
Chief Terry L. Seese

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 5, 2022
Re: Fernando Maravilla Garcia
Road rage shooting conviction

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Fernando Maravilla Garcia, age 24, of Modesto has been sentenced to 50 years-to-life plus six years and eight months for his convictions on two counts of shooting at an occupied vehicle with enhancements for personally using a firearm and causing great bodily injury arising out of a 2019 road rage incident. Deputy District Attorney Samuel Luzadas took the case to trial on behalf of the People.

At about 4:00 p.m. on Father's Day, June 16, 2019, Garcia was driving a red Hyundai Sonata westbound on D Street in downtown Modesto when, for unknown reasons, he became enraged towards a gray Toyota Scion travelling in the same direction.

When both cars stopped at the intersection of 10th and D streets, Garcia retrieved a handgun from the back seat and fired four to five shots into the Toyota. Driver Christina Medeiros, who was pregnant at the time, received a gunshot wound to her left shoulder. Passenger Frank Townsend was hit once in the torso, paralyzing him from the chest down. A 4-year-old child in the back passenger seat was uninjured.

Garcia was arrested and charged with four felony crimes: two counts of attempted murder and two counts of shooting at an occupied vehicle. The case went to jury trial on November 9, 2021 before Judge Robert Westbrook. At the conclusion of the evidence, the jury deliberated for two and a half days before returning guilty verdicts on the two counts of shooting at an occupied vehicle. They also found true the enhancements that Garcia personally used a firearm and personally caused great bodily injury to Medeiros and Townsend.

On May 2, 2022, Judge Robert Westbrook sentenced Garcia to serve 50 years-to-life plus six years eight months in state prison. Under the current "Youthful Offender" laws, he will likely serve far less time before being considered for parole.

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Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



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