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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Approved: LOL
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Release No.: 22-037

Brothers Ordered to Stand Trial for Murder and Accessory to Murder

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Gabriel Ryan Cortez (DOB 02/21/97) and his brother Raymundo Frankie Cortez (DOB 01/29/98), both of Oxnard, were ordered to stand trial for their involvement in the murder of Rogelio Lara on September 27, 2020. The complaint alleges 10 counts including murder by Gabriel Cortez, various related firearms crimes committed by both defendants, and Raymundo Cortez acting as an accessory after the murder.

On September 27, 2020, at 10:39 a.m., Oxnard Police Department officers were dispatched to the parking lot of the Channel Islands Harbor in reference to a shooting victim. Witnesses stated the victim had been sitting in his parked truck when an unknown male approached and shot him approximately six times. The unknown male then fled in a dark-colored SUV. Later that day, officers initiated a stop of the vehicle driven by Raymundo Cortez. Gabriel Cortez was also a passenger in that vehicle. Both defendants were in possession of loaded firearms and the firearm used to murder the victim was located in the back passenger compartment of the vehicle. Testing confirmed the presence of Gabriel Cortez's DNA on the firearm.

The case was continued to April 27, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court for arraignment. Gabriel Cortez is currently in custody with bail set at \$750,000. Raymundo Cortez is out of custody after posting bail of \$50,000.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.