



ERIK NASARENKO
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NEWS RELEASE



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Oxnard Man Pleads Guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and Attempted Murder

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Alejandro Morales (DOB 02/15/84), of Oxnard, pled guilty on July 28, 2023, to one count of voluntary manslaughter for the 2014 death of 24-year-old Joshua Aaron Van and one count of attempted murder for the shooting of 18-year-old Dontre Ronell Bryant. Morales, who drove the suspect vehicle, also admitted to the gun allegations and the special allegation of the crime being committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On February 17, 2014, the victims were shot in the 2000 block of Mariposa Street in Oxnard. Mr. Van suffered one gunshot wound to the chest and died at the scene. Mr. Bryant suffered one gunshot wound to his abdomen but survived. Minutes before the shooting, an associate of Mr. Van and Mr. Bryant got into a verbal disagreement with Morales and Jesus Samuel Duarte (DOB 08/10/79), of Oxnard, while at a convenience market. A portion of that argument was captured on surveillance video. Oxnard Police Department detectives published photos from the surveillance video, which led to the identification and arrest of Morales and Duarte.

Duarte, who pulled the trigger, pled guilty to murder and attempted murder in 2018. He was sentenced to 89 years to life in prison.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, prosecuted the cases against Morales and Duarte.

Morales is expected to be sentenced to 22 years in prison on September 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 26 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Case: 2015008639

Defendant Information:

Alejandro Morales (DOB 02/15/84)

Oxnard

Pled Guilty to:

- PC 192(a) – Voluntary manslaughter
- PC 664/187(a) – Attempted murder

Special Allegations:

- PC 186.22(b)(1) – Gang enhancement
- PC 186.22(e)(1) – Principal armed

