




**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Oxnard Man Pleads Guilty to Murder and Attempted Murder**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Jesus Samuel Duarte (DOB 8/10/79), of Oxnard, pleaded guilty on January 8, 2018, to one count of first degree murder and a second count of attempted murder. Duarte also admitted two special allegations that he personally used a firearm and that he committed the offenses for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On February 17, 2014, 24-year-old Joshua Van and 18-year-old Dontre Bryant were shot in the 2000 block of Mariposa Street in Oxnard. Van suffered one gunshot wound to the chest and died at the scene. Bryant suffered one gunshot wound to his abdomen but survived. Minutes prior to the shooting, an associate of Van's and Bryant's got into a verbal disagreement with Duarte and an accomplice while at the Circle K Market located at 1954 North Ventura Road in Oxnard. 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 Duarte and his accomplice.

Duarte's sentencing hearing is set for March 7, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 25 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Duarte will be sentenced to a term of 89 years-to-life.

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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 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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