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NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Paula Men Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2013 Murder

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Franky Magana (DOB 11/12/85), of Santa Paula, was sentenced by Judge Ryan Wright to 47 years to life for gang-related murder. Magana's co-defendant, Omar Ruiz (DOB 07/27/87), also of Santa Paula, was sentenced to 158 years to life in prison for the same gang-related murder and for assault on a police officer with an assault weapon.

On May 27, 2013, victim Ulises Virto was standing on a street corner in the city of Santa Paula when Magana, Ruiz, and a third unidentified assailant drove up next to Mr. Virto, parked, exited their vehicle and opened fire with three handguns in a gang-motivated attack. Mr. Virto was shot seven times and died at the scene. A Santa Paula Police Department officer intercepted the gunmen as they fled the scene. During the subsequent high-speed chase all three guns and other evidence were tossed from the vehicle. Soon thereafter, the car stopped, and Magana exited, fleeing on foot. The lone police officer pursued Magana on foot and quickly arrested him. Ruiz and the unidentified gunman continued to flee in the vehicle, eventually abandoning it two blocks away and escaping on foot. All three guns and other evidence thrown from the vehicle were forensically matched to Ruiz and Magana as well as to evidence collected at the scene.

On November 7, 2013, Ruiz was tracked by Ventura County Sheriff's deputies to an address in the city of Camarillo. From within the home, Ruiz watched on a closed-circuit surveillance system as a team of deputies approached the residence. Ruiz fired on the deputies with an AR-15 semi-automatic

rifle until the gun jammed. After a brief stand-off, Ruiz was taken into custody. No deputies were injured during the assault.

Magana and Ruiz were convicted by a jury of murder and other charges on January 3, 2018.

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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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