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District Attorney

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Oxnard Man Sentenced for Two 2018 Murders

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Oscar Garcia, age 18, of Oxnard, was committed to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice for the murders of Jose Lopez and Adrian Ornelas in 2018, when Garcia was 15 years old. On June 8, 2021, Garcia admitted both crimes and also admitted that he committed the murder of Jose Lopez with a gun and for the benefit of a criminal street gang. For the crimes, Garcia can be held in custody until he is 25 years old.

On April 22, 2018, Jose Lopez, of Oxnard, was shot multiple times in the Hollywood Beach neighborhood of Oxnard. Garcia and an adult, Jorge Ortega, were later arrested and charged with murder. Ortega is currently in custody at the Ventura County Jail awaiting trial for his role in the killing of Jose Lopez.

On May 20, 2018, Adrian Ornelas, of Oxnard, was stabbed multiple times in the area of Bard Road and Anchorage Street in Oxnard. Garcia and another juvenile were arrested and charged for the killing. The other juvenile admitted to voluntary manslaughter in 2019 in juvenile court.

Garcia's case was the subject of a 2021 California Supreme Court ruling that prohibited the Ventura County District Attorney's Office from transferring Garcia to adult court where he would receive a longer sentence if found guilty. Senate Bill 1391 was passed in 2018 and prohibits the prosecution of minors as adults for the crime of murder if the crime was committed when the minor was under age 16. In the case of *O.G. v. Ventura County Superior Court* (S2559011), The Ventura County District Attorney's Office, along with other district attorney's offices across California, challenged the

constitutionality of Senate Bill 1391. On February 25, 2021, the California Supreme Court ruled that Senate Bill 1391 was constitutional.

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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 professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.