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AMENDED-PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 6, 2021
Re: Mario Javier Parra and
Carlos Alejandro Bautista Jr.
Jury Trial Gang Convictions

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mario Javier Parra, age 24, and Carlos Alejandro Bautista, Jr., age 23, both of Modesto, were convicted on July 29, 2021, of serious and violent felony crimes following an eight-week jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Donya Nunes prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On February 19, 2018, Parra and Bautista went with other Deep South Side Modesto Norteno gang members to rival Sureno gang member Omar Castaneda's home to shoot him. When they arrived, they passed Castaneda standing outside on the street near his truck. After making a U-turn, Parra and Bautista's vehicle stopped alongside the truck and fired four to six shots from a modified high power assault rifle. Castaneda immediately took cover, avoiding injury. His girlfriend, 25-year-old Jovina Elisa Mendoza, was seated in the passenger seat of the truck. One bullet went completely through one of her legs causing great bodily injury. After the shooting, Parra and Bautista fled the scene.

Two months later, on April 11, 2018, Parra, Bautista and other members of their gang took part in a planned home invasion robbery in Ceres. Alexis Martinez, age 23, and Marilyn Magallon, age 26, were in their home eating dinner when the defendants broke a window to retrieve a video camera and kicked in their front door. The victims were threatened at gunpoint, struck several times in the head and dragged through the home while the defendants ransacked it for things to steal.

Sheriff's investigators identified Parra and Bautista as suspects. Searches of their homes and vehicles on June 22, 2018, and January 3, 2019, led to the retrieval of ammunition and stolen firearms including several modified assault rifles.

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After an eight-week trial presided over by Judge Nancy Leo, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury returned verdicts convicting each defendant of the following:

Mario Javier Parra was convicted of one count of attempted murder, one count attempted voluntary manslaughter, shooting at an occupied vehicle, two counts of home invasion robbery, active participation in a criminal street gang, being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a felon in possession of ammunition. Also found true were the enhancements of being a gang principal armed with a firearm causing great bodily injury, personal use of a firearm and doing these crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Carlos Alejandro Bautista Jr. was convicted of two counts of attempted voluntary manslaughter, shooting at an occupied vehicle, two counts of home invasion robbery, criminal threats, active participation in a criminal street gang, and possession of an assault weapon. Also found true were the enhancements of being a gang principal armed with a firearm causing great bodily injury, personal use of a firearm and doing these crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Both defendants are currently being held without bail in the Stanislaus County jail pending victim impact statements and sentencing which is currently set for September 16, 2021. Parra and Bautista each face a potential maximum sentence of life in state prison.

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