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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 7, 2025
Re: Alfonso Phillip Cervantes
Convicted Murderer Sentencing

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Alfonso Phillip Cervantes, age 49, of Turlock was sentenced to serve 50 years-to-life for the murder of 30-year-old Nicolette Ciabatti. Deputy District Attorney Sara D. Sousa prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 19, 2020, Cervantes was driving his car with Ms. Ciabatti as his passenger. They had met two days prior. At about 2:00 a.m. Cervantes, armed with a loaded handgun, pulled over on McHenry Avenue just south of Stewart Road and shot Nicolette six times, killing her. After shooting Nicolette, Cervantes left her on the side of the road and drove to Oakdale where he called 911. Cervantes admitted to shooting Nicolette, but claimed it was in self-defense. The firearm used to commit the murder, the number and location of rounds fired, the injuries to Nicolette, physical and forensic evidence and Cervantes' statement proved otherwise.

On August 26, 2024, a jury found Cervantes guilty of premeditated first-degree murder and found true he discharged a firearm causing Nicolette's death.

On December 27, 2024, the Honorable Shawn Bessey sentenced Cervantes to 50 years-to-life in state prison.

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