



ERIK NASARENKO
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NEWS RELEASE



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Oxnard Gang Member Sentenced for Murder

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Michael Ortega (DOB 03/05/00), of Oxnard, was sentenced to 64 years 4 months to life in state prison for the murder of John Paul Carrillo. Ortega was previously convicted by a jury on August 9, 2024. The jury also found Ortega guilty of multiple gun charges, including felony possession of a gun with methamphetamine, felony possession of a gun by a felon, and felony possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Theresa Pollara, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, prosecuted the cases.

"This case illustrates the tragedy of street gang crime," Ms. Pollara said. "The defendant acted to impress his gang, but there was nothing noble or brave about shooting an innocent youth. The judge said it best when he explained to the defendant that 'he took two lives, his and Mr. Carrillo's'."

On December 4, 2022, Ortega, a known gang member, was driving through Oxnard with co-defendant Paul Ramos, and a third man. The three men arrived at the Porta Rossa Apartments on Gonzales Road in Oxnard just after midnight on December 5, 2022. They confronted a man in the parking lot. Ortega was holding his sawed-off shotgun and challenged the man. The man convinced Ortega he was in good standing with their gang.

The three men confronted Mr. Carrillo in a carport as Ortega shot him in the chest with the shotgun. Carrillo was not gang-involved. All three men fled to their vehicle and Ramos drove them away. Carrillo was pronounced dead at the scene. The crime was captured on surveillance video.

Ortega was arrested on December 9, 2022, by the Oxnard Police Department. The shotgun fell out of his pants as they arrested him. Methamphetamine was also found in Ortega's pocket. A forensic examination confirmed the shotgun was used to kill Mr. Carrillo.

Co-defendant Ramos was arrested on March 10, 2023, during a traffic stop. He pled guilty to two felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced on June 28, 2024, to 10 years state prison.

Case: 2023005669

Defendant Information:

Michael Ortega (DOB 03/05/00)
Oxnard

Charges convicted of:

- PC 187 – Murder
- (3 counts) PC 29800(a)(1) – Own/Possess/Control firearm by felon
- (3 counts) PC 33215 – Commerce/Transfer/Possess sawed-off shotgun
- HS 11370.1(a) – Possession of a controlled substance with firearm
- PC 25850(a) – Carrying a loaded firearm on one's person

Special allegations found true:

- PC 12022.53(d) – Personal and intentional discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury
- PC 186.22(b)(1) – Street terrorism

