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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodland Gang Members Sentenced to Life in Prison for 2007 Shooting

Woodland, CA –October 2, 2008 - Lorenzo Alberto Godoy, age 22 of Woodland and Rudy Sanchez Gonzalez, age 48 of Woodland, were both sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of a man in January 2007.

After a jury convicted both men of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment, the Honorable Judge Fall sentenced Lorenzo Godoy to 59 years and 4 months to life. Rudy Sanchez Gonzales who had two “strikes” prior to the shooting was sentenced under California’s Three Strikes Law. He was sentenced to 146 years to life.

Raul Ramos and Mr. Godoy had been conducting a drug business together and had incurred a drug debt to an individual who lived in Anaheim, California. Mr. Godoy went to Mr. Ramos’ apartment in an attempt to collect his portion of the debt from Mr. Ramos.

On the night of January 5, 2007, Mr. Godoy and Mr. Gonzalez went to the home of Raul Ramos at the 6th Street Apartments in Woodland, California. Mr. Godoy is a validated Sureno and Mr. Gonzalez is a former member of the prison gang, the Mexican Mafia. Mr. Godoy was armed with a .25 caliber pistol and Mr. Gonzalez was armed with a knife. Also present at the apartment was Marco Paniagua and his girlfriend. Mr. Paniagua had gone out onto the back patio to smoke a cigarette when Mr. Godoy and Mr. Gonzales confronted him at gun point and forced him back inside the apartment.

While inside the apartment, Mr. Godoy demanded money from Mr. Ramos for the drug debt. Mr. Gonzales pulled his knife out in order to keep all the other people present at bay. When Mr. Ramos refused to give Mr. Godoy any money, Mr. Gonzales signaled Mr. Godoy who then shot Mr. Ramos 6 times almost killing him. Both men then left the apartment. Witnesses reported seeing 5 to 6 men outside the apartment acting as lookouts just prior to the shooting. They also reported being threatened by the men to not talk to police after the shooting took place.

Two days later, search warrants were conducted at both men’s residents where ammunition and the gun that was used to shoot the victim were found. Additionally, large amounts of gang paraphernalia and gang graffiti was observed and collected from each home. Both men were arrested by the Woodland Police Department Gang Violence Suppression Unit for attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, robbery, burglary, false imprisonment and gang enhancements.

Following their arrest, jail house letters between the Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Godoy as well as other inmates were confiscated which outlined a plan to hurt and kill witnesses that were going to testify against the two men. Additionally it outlined a fabricated defense that the two men worked on in order to deceive a jury should the case get to a trial.

Due to the dedicated efforts of the Woodland Police Department GVSU and the Yolo County Gang Task Force, this case was successfully prosecuted. Deputy District Attorney Deanna Hays stated, "Gang cases are difficult to prosecute because of the fear and intimidation that gang members instill in the community and among witnesses of a crime. They witness violence by gang members and then are threatened with the same violence upon them or their family if they cooperate with law enforcement. Woodland Police Dept. GVSU and our Gang Task Force worked countless hours immediately after the arrest, during the preliminary hearing and during the jury trial to keep the location of witnesses protected to ensure their safety. This was a cooperative effort of community members who witnesses this crime and law enforcement that allowed this gang crime to be successfully prosecuted."

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