



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **ESTEVEN RODRIGUEZ SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON**

MADERA, CA. – The Madera County Superior Court sentenced Esteven Rodriguez, 22, of Madera to life in prison for the 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder of Drakkar Lewis, according to Deputy District Attorney, Rachel Cartier.

Evidence presented at trial established that Rodriguez fired multiple shots through the back right passenger window of a vehicle occupied by Mr. Lewis and several others. Everyone, but Mr. Lewis, got out of the car and ran into an orchard. Mr. Lewis was shot three times in the head. The cause of death was gunshot wounds to the cerebrum and brain stem.

A Gang expert testified that the Defendant was an active participant in the Norteno criminal street gang. He further testified that this conduct would benefit the Norteno criminal street gang; would be done in association with the Norteno criminal street gang; and that this conduct would be done with the specific intent to promote, further, or assist in criminal conduct by gang members.

Rodriguez was convicted by a Madera County jury on March 19, 2015.

On June 22, 2015, the Superior Court sentenced Rodriguez to life in prison with a minimum of 64 years, 8 months.

Deputy District Attorney, Rachel Cartier, stated, “The murder of Drakkar is every parent’s worst nightmare. Drakkar was an innocent 18 year old college student with no gang affiliation. The Madera County Sheriff’s Detective Unit devoted themselves to solving this murder. They worked tirelessly and as a result of their hard work, we were able to successfully prosecute Mr. Rodriguez. We hope that this conviction will start to bring closure to the Lewis’ family.”