



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

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VISALIA GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

Yesterday in Department 10 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Kathryn Montejano sentenced Johnny Ramirez, age 19, of Visalia, to 32 years in state prison for attempted murder.

On November 14, 2016 Ramirez pled guilty to the attempted murder of two male victims. Ramirez admitted to personally and intentionally discharging a firearm and that he personally inflicted great bodily on the victim. Ramirez also admitted the special allegation that the crime was committed for the benefit, at the direction of or in association with a criminal street gang.

On January 11, 2017 Judge Montejano sentenced the co-defendant, Anthony Ontiveros, age 21, also of Visalia, to 11 years in state prison. Ontiveros pled no contest to assault with a semiautomatic firearm against two victims and admitted the special allegation that the crime was committed for the benefit, at the direction of or in association with a criminal street gang.

On July 18, 2015, Visalia Police officers responded to the area of Bridge St. and Houston after hearing four to five gunshots in that vicinity. Upon arrival they found one adult male shooting victim lying in the front yard of a residence. It was determined that a second adult male victim had also been shot. Witnesses described a male subject, later identified as Ramirez, walk towards the home, stop behind some bushes and seconds later raise his arm and fire a number of shots from a handgun. Ramirez was subsequently apprehended in the area along with co-defendant, Ontiveros. Ontiveros was in possession of a .40 caliber bullet, which was an exact match to the casings found at the scene of the shooting. Both Ramirez and Ontiveros are documented gang members.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Wayt of the Major Crimes Division and investigated by Shane Logan of the Visalia Police Department.

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