



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday February 6, 2020

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CARLOS URIAS CONVICTED OF MURDER

On December 23, 2019, at approximately 8:15 p.m., Carlos Urias stabbed Joanne Otero multiple times in the neck near the AAA business in the City of Madera. The Madera Police Department diligently investigated the case. They arrested Carlos Urias on December 28, 2019 after numerous surveillance videos showed Carlos Urias walking with the victim and then leaving the scene of the murder.

Carlos Urias was arraigned and a preliminary hearing was set for January 10, 2020. A preliminary hearing is a hearing where the District Attorney calls witnesses to the stand to testify for a judge to determine whether or not there is sufficient evidence to proceed to trial. The preliminary hearing started on January 10, 2020. Twenty witnesses from the community to court and testified. The hearing was scheduled to finish on Monday, January 13, 2020. Just prior to resuming the preliminary hearing, Carlos Urias pled guilty to every charge and special allegation in the criminal complaint: the first degree murder of Joanne Otero, admission of a prior strike (attempted first degree burglary) and the personal use of a knife during the murder. Sentencing is scheduled for February 10, 2020. Carlos Urias faces a sentence of up to 56 years to life in state prison.

Detective Heath Middleton and the Detective Unit of the Madera Police Department did a phenomenal job investigating this case. Their hard work led to a quick arrest and resolution.

The Madera District Attorney's Office would like to thank the following businesses for their help in providing surveillance video and/or testimony at the preliminary hearing for this case:

AAA
AMPM
Buggy Car Wash/Oil Drive Thru
Burrito King
Chevron
BJ's Liquor
Harry's Liquor
La Quinta Inn
Madera Arts Council
Madera County Government Center
Papa Murphy's
Zac's Security