

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOHN T. SAVRNOCH**  
District Attorney



05-682

RELEASE NUMBER

May 3, 2023

RELEASE DATE

Madison Whitmore, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

***Re: People v. Erik Rocha Fernandez, Case No. 21CR03306***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that defendant Erik Rocha Fernandez has pled guilty to murder.

Rocha Fernandez pled guilty to one felony count of first degree murder, in violation of Penal Code Section 187(a), and admitted an enhancement for intentionally and personally using a firearm which caused the death of Frankie Hernandez on May 28, 2021, in the City of Santa Maria. Rocha Fernandez also pled guilty to the attempted murder of another man and conspiracy to commit witness intimidation by force or fear. He will receive a sentence of 10 years followed by 25 years to life in the state prison. Senior Deputy District Attorney Madison Whitmore represented the District Attorney in this matter and the case was investigated by Santa Maria Police Department Detective Zack Robbins.

Rocha Fernandez is set for sentencing in Santa Barbara County Superior Court - Santa Maria Division, May 5, 2023 at 8:30 a.m., in Department 7.

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