OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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DA 02-646

RELEASE NUMBER

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RELEASE DATE

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***** PRESS RELEASE ***

RE: Juvenile Sentenced for Murders

On January 7, 2021, Jasper Van Der Meulen and Enzo Rastelli were found inside a vehicle on Burtis Street in Goleta, California, at 12:38 p.m. having sustained gunshot wounds. Enzo Rastelli was found dead at the scene; Jasper Van Der Meulen was transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and died days later.

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department investigated the case and arrested a 15-year old minor and two adults Bryan Munoz and Joshua Vega. The minor and Bryan Munoz were charged separately in juvenile and adult court with conspiracy to commit robbery, multiple murders in association with the Westside criminal street gang and firearm enhancements. Joshua Vega was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery in association with the Westside criminal street gang, robbery, and gang-related crimes and firearm enhancements.

On January 14, 2022, the minor admitted the first-degree murder charges regarding both victims Jasper Van Der Meulen and Enzo Rastelli, and the minor further admitted that he used a firearm during the commission of the murders. The minor also admitted that the crimes were committed in association with the Westside criminal street gang in Santa Barbara to further and assist the gang's felonious criminal conduct with the special circumstances of multiple murders and gang murder being true.

If convicted as an adult, the maximum confinement in the state prison would be 100 years to life, then life without parole. As a juvenile under the age of sixteen for the same offenses, there is a "baseline term of confinement" of 7 years, with jurisdiction of the juvenile court ending at age twenty-five.

In recent years, the California Legislature mandated the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice leaving housing for minors under 16 who commit murder and other violent felonies to an established secure youth treatment facility for the minor's rehabilitation.

On February 28, 2022, the Honorable Judge Garcia sentenced the minor to a secure youth treatment facility for 7 years, not to exceed custody past the age of 25 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 875. The minor will have review periods every six months until the jurisdiction of the court ends. After 7 years the People may be able to petition the court to extend the minor's commitment not to exceed age 25.

Adult defendants Bryan Munoz and Joshua Vega are pending trial before the Honorable Clifford Anderson in Department 10 in Santa Barbara. No trial date has been set.

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