

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



09-809

RELEASE NUMBER

September 3, 2025

RELEASE DATE

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District Attorney Files Amended Charges Against Three For State Street Stabbing

Re: *People v. Juan Fernando Rios, Sergio Rivas, Luis Gerardo Terrazas*
Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 25CR06252

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., September 3, 2025 – Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that charges have been amended against 28-year-old Juan Fernando Rios, 30-year-old Sergio Rivas, and 29-year-old Luis Gerardo Terrazo in connection with the stabbings on State Street in the City of Santa Barbara on August 1, 2025.

On August 5, 2025, Mr. Rivas and Mr. Rios were charged with the murder of victim Anthony Bisquera-Hartley, with the special allegations of murdering to benefit a criminal street gang, and the personal use of a knife. The District Attorney's Office based those charges on the state of the investigation at that time, which showed that Mr. Bisquera-Hartley was unarmed when he attacked Mr. Rivas and suffered a fatal stab wound at the hands of Mr. Rivas and a non-fatal stab wound at the hands of Mr. Rios. Since the filing of charges, the District Attorney's Office received additional video evidence. It determined that, in fact, Mr. Bisquera-Hartley was armed with a knife at the time he attacked Mr. Rivas and that Mr. Rivas acted in lawful self-defense when he stabbed Mr. Bisquera-Hartley. It was also determined that Mr. Rios acted in lawful defense of Mr. Rivas when he stabbed Mr. Bisquera-Hartley.

The District Attorney's Office will continue to pursue convictions against Mr. Rivas for his assault with a deadly weapon against victim, J. Ramos, with the special allegation of causing great bodily injury as well as for the numerous other firearm-related charges stemming from his arrest, including being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm in public, carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, and possession of a loaded firearm while also in possession of cocaine.

The District Attorney's Office will also continue to pursue convictions against Mr. Rios for the several firearm-related charges in connection with his arrest on July 26, 2025, including being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition and carrying a loaded firearm in public.

Mr. Terrazas was charged with the attempted murder of co-defendant Sergio Rivas, with the special allegations of committing the crime to benefit a criminal street gang and the personal use of a knife. Based on new information learned by the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Terrazas will instead be charged with assault by means of force likely to cause great bodily injury, with the special allegation of personally using a deadly weapon in the commission of the offense. The District Attorney's Office also determined that the evidence does not support the filing of gang charges in connection with the crimes committed on August 1, 2025.

All three defendants will be arraigned in Department 12 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

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