



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2017

RAUL TORRES, JR. SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2012 MURDER OF MICHAEL ESCALERA

Senior Deputy District Attorney Noelle Pebet and Senior D.A. Investigator Shari Hall are pleased to announce that defendant Raul Torres, Jr. was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Jon Skiles today to 50 years to Life in state prison for the murder of Michael Escalera on August 11, 2012 near Del Rey. Earlier this month, a jury found Mr. Torres guilty of Murder in the First Degree with enhancements for a firearm being used in the murder and that the murder was committed to benefit a criminal street gang. Multiple members of the victim's family were present at the sentencing hearing.

Previous media coverage can be found at <http://abc30.com/archive/8786094/>

Mr. Torres will be eligible for early release from prison once he reaches 60 years of age and has served 25 years pursuant to the Elderly Parole program started by the Board of Parole Hearings in 2014.

The media may e-mail FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559)600-4442 with questions.

[2012H26115]