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NEWS RELEASE

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March 29, 2018

Gang Member Sentenced to 300 to Life in Prison for Canoga Park Stray-Bullet Murder

A Bryant Street gang member was sentenced today to 300 years to life in state prison for the murder of a man hit by a stray bullet during a 2015 shooting in Canoga Park, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ariel Baker Paniagua Jr., 25, of Canoga Park was convicted on Sept. 26, 2017, of second-degree murder, three counts of attempted murder, two counts of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle, and possession of a firearm by a felon.

The jury found true the gang allegation and the special allegation that the defendant used a firearm which resulted in the death of the victim.

Co-defendant Hubaldo Martínez, 26, of Northridge, pleaded no contest on Aug. 31, 2017, to one count of voluntary manslaughter and was later sentenced to 27 years in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Eric Siddall of the Hardcore Gang Division said victim Eduardo Rebolledo, 33, was an innocent bystander caught in the middle of a gang feud.

On Oct. 6, 2015, Paniagua fired seven shots at three men who he perceived as being rival gang members. One of those shots hit the back of one of the men and another struck the back of Rebolledo's head, killing him instantly, the prosecutor added.

On Oct. 12, 2015, in unrelated incident, Paniagua shot at a car driving on Owensmouth Avenue near Cohasset Street, according to evidence presented at trial.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Topanga Station.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.