

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Members Convicted of Whittier Murder

A jury today found two Whittier Trece gang members guilty of a 2012 killing, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Brock Lunsford of the Hardcore Gang Division said the jury deliberated for less than a day before convicting Eudiel Eddie Lopez, 21, of first-degree murder in case VA124204. Additionally, jurors found true gun and gang allegations.

Lopez's co-defendant, Daniel Cesar Stopani, 20, was found guilty of 2nd degree murder. Jurors also found true gun and gang allegations.

The prosecutor said a month before the killing, Lopez and the victim, Michael Soto, 17, had a gang-related exchange.

On March 26, 2012, at about noon, Lopez and Stopani approached Soto near Painter Avenue and Mulberry Drive in Whittier. The prosecutor said Stopani punched Soto and then Lopez shot the victim several times.

After the shooting, the two defendants fled the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment, but ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Several hours after the incident, authorities located Lopez and arrested him in connection with the fatal shooting. More than a year later, Stopani was charged in connection with the killing.

Lopez and Stopani are scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 18 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch in Department G.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.