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Norwalk Man Charged with Murder, Attempted Murder

A 23-year-old man pleaded not guilty yesterday to fatally shooting a former friend and severely injuring the victim's father, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Raul Herrera Jr. (dob 3/2/92) of Norwalk has been charged with three felony counts: murder, attempted murder and mayhem in case VA140357.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury and death. Additionally, the charging document alleges Herrera was previously convicted of second-degree robbery in 2012.

Prosecutors said on Oct. 15 Herrera reportedly drove up to his Norwalk home where he encountered Julien and Jerry Chavez.

Herrera and Julien Chavez were former friends, prosecutors said, and Jerry Chavez was Julien's father.

According to prosecutors, Herrera allegedly ran into his home and grabbed a gun.

Herrera then allegedly confronted the two men, who were located in front of the defendant's home, and shot them both, prosecutors added.

Julien Chavez was fatally injured, prosecutors said, while Jerry Chavez sustained a gunshot wound to the face. He survived his injuries.

Following the shooting, Herrera fled the scene, but turned himself in to authorities on Oct. 16, prosecutors said.

Herrera is scheduled to return to court on Dec. 14 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department J of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

If convicted as charged, Herrera faces a possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

The case is being 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 <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.