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NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Member Sentenced in Deadly Baldwin Park Attacks

The ringleader in a series of Baldwin Park gang attacks that left two men dead in 2013 was sentenced today to life in state prison without the possibility of parole, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ulises Jose Gutierrez (dob 5/27/93) of Baldwin Park was convicted by a jury on Sept. 20 of two counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder. Jurors found true special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and that he was an active participant in a criminal street gang as well as allegations that he used a firearm and a knife, caused great bodily injury and committed the crimes for the benefit of a gang.

Three other defendants already had been sentenced and two more are scheduled for sentencing in the coming weeks for participating in the attacks.

On July 19, 2018, Francisco Moran (dob 2/18/88) of Baldwin Park was sentenced to 82 years to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of one count each of first-degree murder and attempted murder with gun and gang allegations.

On Oct. 10, 2019, Gustavo Cruz (dob 2/1/90) of El Monte was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison and waived six years of credit for time already served in jail after pleading no contest to one count of second-degree murder.

On Oct. 16, 2019, Arturo Mendoza (dob 2/23/91) of Baldwin Park was sentenced to 21 years in prison and waived six years of credit for time served after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

Johnny Balbuena (dob 7/7/95) of Baldwin Park is expected to be sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison after a jury convicted him on Sept. 20 of one count of first-degree murder and found true gun and gang allegations. Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 5 in Department 104 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Elton Bennett (dob 4/26/93) of Baldwin Park faces up to 80 years to life in prison after a jury convicted him in April of two counts of attempted murder and found true gang and gun allegations. His sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 12 in Department 104.

Deputy District Attorneys Amy Murphy and Michael Michelena of the Hardcore Gang Division prosecuted case KA104376.

From May through October 2013, the defendants under Gutierrez's leadership targeted people they believed to be associated with a rival gang or otherwise opposed to them, according to court testimony.

On the night of May 24, Cruz and Mendoza drove up to a house on Maine Avenue and confronted Raymond Vasquez, 22, who was outside. A second vehicle driven by Balbuena arrived moments later, and Gutierrez got out and fatally shot Vasquez with an AK-47 assault rifle, according to court testimony.

On July 19, Gutierrez and Moran drove to a bus stop at Los Angeles Street and Merced Avenue and confronted Mauricio Sotelo, 20. Moran fatally shot the victim with a handgun.

Earlier that night, Gutierrez and Moran approached a man walking on a sidewalk in a residential area and Gutierrez shot and wounded him.

Additionally, Gutierrez shot and wounded a teenage boy on June 21. The next night, Bennett shot and wounded a man who was an innocent bystander in front of his home.

On Oct. 2, Gutierrez stabbed a woman with a knife.

All of the attacks were in Baldwin Park.

The Baldwin Park Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Division, investigated the case.

[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.