



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

FRANCISCO R. ZARATE
Chief Deputy District Attorney

RICHARD WEST
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2011

Gangbanger Who Almost Shot Self Sentenced

A Chico man was sentenced today for his role in a gang-related shooting which was captured on video.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today that Erick Lara, 25, was sentenced to 9 years in state prison. The sentence was imposed by Butte County Superior Court Judge Steven Howell.

On May 28, 2010 Lara fired multiple shots at the family home of a rival gang member. The home, on Cleveland Street in Chico, was equipped with a security camera. Grainy video footage showed Lara exiting from the rear passenger seat of a car and then manipulating an object in his hands. The gun discharges once while pointed at Lara=s feet. Lara then raises the weapon and fires four more shots at the home. Two of the shots are clearly seen striking the front lawn of the home. One of the shots struck the front porch of the home, which was occupied at the time of the shooting.

Butte County gang detectives responsible for investigating the shooting said the video - and a gunshot divot in the asphalt - demonstrated Lara almost shot himself in the foot.

Ramsey said, ABoth the people in the home and Mr. Lara were very fortunate that no one was harmed by Lara=s moronic conduct. This case is a prime example of senseless

violence perpetrated by those involved with gangs. @

*Press note: Video of shooting and photo of Lara attached to e-mail