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PRESS RELEASE

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Teenage Gang Member to be Tried as an Adult in Chico Stabbing

A 16-year-old Chico gang member, John Vigil a.k.a. "Little Johnnie," will be tried as an adult for a March 30, 2013 stabbing in Chico. A juvenile court judge at the Butte County Superior Court on Wednesday found the defendant unfit to be tried as a juvenile because of the sophistication and the severity of the stabbing. Vigil will be arraigned in Superior Court today, Friday, June 28, 2013 on adult charges of assault with a deadly weapon causing great bodily injury.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the entire assault was caught on surveillance cameras at a housing complex on Sunset Court in Chico. Ramsey said the video footage clearly shows Vigil assault a 24-year-old victim. Vigil first hit the victim on the head with a glass bottle, stunning the victim. Vigil then threw that same bottle at the victim head, striking the victim. Later, the footage shows the victim backing away from the defendant. Vigil then made several upward thrusts into the victim's body. Ramsey said Vigil viciously stabbed and slashed the victim nine times leaving the victim in a pool of blood. Vigil was arrested by Chico Police the next day and has remained in custody in the Butte County Juvenile Hall.

The victim suffered several life threatening wounds, including a punctured lung and damaged small intestine. He underwent emergency surgery at Enloe Hospital and remained hospitalized for several days.

Ramsey said Vigil is a known gang member, but the motive for the stabbing is unclear.

If convicted the defendant faces up to 16 years in state prison. Due to the defendant's age, a portion of that sentence could be served in the California Division of Juvenile Justice, formerly known as the California Youth Authority.