



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Two Men Charged with Murder in Chico Mass Shooting

Two men were charged today in Butte County Superior Court by the District Attorney's Office for their role in a recent gang-related mass shooting at a party at an apartment complex near Chico State University.

**Oscar Sebastian Castrejon-Sanchez, 18**, of Chico, and his cousin **Marcos Tiny Douglas-Ayala, 21**, of Hamilton City, were charged with one count of murder and five counts of attempted murder for a drive-by shooting during the early morning hours of May 6, 2023. Both men also face additional charges of assault with a firearm, and Castrejon-Sanchez faces numerous firearms enhancements on his charges.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said at approximately 3:00 a.m. on the morning of May 6<sup>th</sup>, Chico Police began receiving 911 calls from a party in the area of Columbus Avenue and W. Sacramento Avenue. Callers reported multiple people having been shot from a vehicle, which then fled the area. Police responded and located five victims with gunshot wounds, four of whom required emergency medical attention at Enloe Hospital. A sixth victim, 17-year-old Justina Stubbe, of Oroville, had been taken to Enloe Hospital in a private car by friends before police arrived. She died at the hospital due to her injuries.

Shortly after receiving the calls, Ramsey said the local California Highway Patrol was alerted that a car matching the description of the suspect vehicle had crashed into a utility pole at the intersection of Meridian Road and Wilson Landing Road, northwest of Chico. Recognizing the possible link between the two events, Chico Police officers responded to that location and found the car to be abandoned, with footprints leading away from the crash.

Chico Police Department detectives immediately began to investigate the case, working to identify and apprehend the suspects. Detectives were able to identify that the vehicle had been rented the day before, and in turn, were able to identify possible subjects associated with the renter of the vehicle.

Ramsey said that over the next several days, detectives were able, through interviewing witnesses and obtaining evidence through search warrants, to identify the suspects that had been in the suspect vehicle.

In the meantime, on May 8, 2023, while detectives were still working to identify all the involved parties, Castrejon-Sanchez committed a separate crime of shooting into an occupied house. He was apprehended fleeing that scene by Chico Police officers, with the assistance of a drone. He was found to have two firearms when he was caught. Castrejon-Sanchez was charged with that crime and was held in the Butte County Jail without bail upon the request of the district attorney's office.

Chico detectives were also able to identify the two other people in the car that committed the drive-by shooting as Douglas-Ayala and his brother, **Alejandro Manuel Douglas, 33**, of South Carolina.

Ramsey said that in the early morning on May 18, 2023, Chico Police with the assistance of the Butte County Sheriff's Office and several other local agencies served two search warrants in Hamilton City, where Castrejon-Sanchez and Douglas-Ayala were known to have been before and after the shooting. Douglas-Ayala was contacted and arrested after service of the search warrants.

Ramsey said investigators were able to build a timeline of the events leading up to the shooting, which showed that Oscar Castrejon-Sanchez, Marcos Douglas-Ayala, and Alejandro Douglas went to the apartment complex party on Columbus Avenue at approximately 1:26 a.m. Witnesses said Alejandro Douglas was seen with a firearm in his waistband and his group was told to leave by the party hosts.

Ramsey said the three men who are believed to be members of a local criminal street gang, began arguing with another group of party-goers, some of whom were members of a rival gang. Ramsey said members of each group were shouting derogatory "gang" terms at each other, and making gang signs with their hands. At some point, it is believed that Alejandro Douglas had his firearm taken from him, and the three suspects left in the rental car at approximately 2:24 a.m.

Ramsey said evidence showed the trio drove to Hamilton City, obtained additional firearms, and immediately drove back to the same party to retaliate. Ramsey said surveillance footage shows the vehicle driving down Columbus Avenue past the party, turning around, and then stopping in the street in front of the party, which had spilled out into the parking lot. As soon as the car stopped, multiple gunshots were fired from the car into the crowd, hitting several victims, including Stubbe. The car then fled the scene and ended up crashing at the T-intersection of Meridian and Wilson Landing Roads.

Ramsey said investigators believe that the shooting suspects were deliberately targeting the group of rival gang members with whom they had been fighting earlier that morning in an attempt to retaliate, but when they shot at them from their car they also struck numerous innocent victims.

The judge at today's arraignment ordered both Oscar Castrejon-Sanchez and Marcos Douglas-Ayala held without bail, citing public safety concerns. They will next appear in court on May 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., for further arraignment and entry of pleas.

As announced at a press conference at Chico Police Department on Friday, May 19, 2023, a no-bail arrest warrant for murder and attempt murder has been issued for Alejandro Douglas in addition to an outstanding federal warrant for his absconding from federal probation on a federal drug trafficking conviction in South Carolina.



Marcos Tiny Douglas-Ayala



Oscar Sebastian Castrejon-Sanchez