



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2022

DEFENDANT CHARGED IN 2021 CHICO GANG-RELATED SHOOTING

A Chico man appeared today in Butte County Superior Court to face charges stemming from an apparent gang-related 2021 shooting in Chico.

Raul Daniel Linarez-Rodriguez, 34, of Chico is charged with assault with a semi-automatic firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, evading police and resisting arrest stemming from the shooting of a 25-year-old Chico man in October 2021 and a police pursuit in November 2021. The charges also include allegations that Linarez-Rodriguez personally used a firearm and personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. Additionally, it alleged that Linarez-Rodriguez has a prior assault with a firearm conviction that qualifies as a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arise from an incident on the night of October 27, 2021. Ramsey said at approximately 10:00 p.m. Chico Police responded to the Mobil Gas Station on Longfellow Avenue in Chico for a report of an assault with a firearm. Ramsey said witnesses reported three shots were fired and described the shooter as a male dressed in black and wearing a colored bandana across his face. Ramsey stated that prior to arrival of Chico Police, the victim was transported to Enloe Hospital in a private vehicle and the shooter fled the area. Chico Police searched the area and located shell casings near where the shooter was seen behind the gas station. Chico Police also located a car parked at the nearby In Motion Fitness parking lot with an apparent bullet hole in the windshield.

Ramsey said Chico police detectives determined that the 25-year-old victim had been working as a clerk at the Mobil Station at the time of the shooting. Doctors noted the victim had been shot in the upper thigh/hip area. The victim told detectives that he did not know the shooter; that the shooter had approached the victim behind the station; directed gang insults toward the victim; and then pulled a gun and shot the victim.

Detectives obtained security video from the gas station. Ramsey said, based upon security video of the incident, detectives believed the shooter to be Linarez-Rodriguez, a well-known member of a local criminal street gang, who had a previous conviction for a similar shooting in 2005. Detectives then obtained a probable cause arrest warrant for Linarez-Rodriguez.

Ramsey said Chico police next spotted Linarez-Rodriguez on November 20, 2021, in a vehicle in the Safeway shopping center on East Avenue. When the police attempted to stop him, Linarez-Rodriguez fled, leading the police on a vehicle chase through the shopping center parking lot and east into a residential area. Ramsey stated Linarez-Rodriguez abandoned his vehicle in the neighborhood and fled on foot, but was captured by police after a foot pursuit. Later a resident of the area in which Linarez-Rodriguez was apprehended reported finding a loaded gun on his lawn to Chico Police, who took it into evidence.

Ramsey said Linarez-Rodriguez was originally charged solely with possession of the gun, resisting arrest and evading officers and was in custody on those and parole violation charges since November 20, 2021.

However, Ramsey said all of the physical evidence, including the shell casings collected at the scene and the firearm found on the resident's lawn, was sent to the California Department of Justice Laboratory in Chico for analysis. Ballistics testing done at the lab determined that the gun found on the lawn was the same gun used in the October 27, 2021 shooting. Based upon the ballistics report, Ramsey said his office was able to add the assault with a semi-automatic firearm to the previously filed charges.

Ramsey said detectives believe the October 27, 2021 gas station shooting was done in retaliation for a previous incident in which rival gang members attacked Linarez-Rodriguez. Linarez-Rodriguez mistakenly believed the gas station victim was associated with that gang.

Ramsey said Linarez-Rodriguez was arraigned and pleaded not guilty today to all charges. He is being held in custody at the Butte County Jail without bail. He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on March 8, 2022. According to Ramsey, Linarez-Rodriguez could be sentenced to over 30 years in state prison if convicted on all of the charges.