



APRIL

Child Abuse Prevention Month

COUNTY OF FRESNO

**Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2017

DANIEL VARGAS CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER FOR ORANGE COVE SHOOTING

Today, April 12, 2017, a Fresno County jury convicted Daniel Sandoval Vargas (23, of Reedley) of attempted murder for a 2016 shooting in Orange Cove.

On November 29, 2016, Daniel Vargas, a known gang member with a reputation for violence in the community, shot four times at a car being driven by Aaron Zuniga while passing him in an intersection in Orange Cove. One bullet went through the victim's windshield and another shattered his driver side window. The victim crouched down in the car and fortunately was not injured. Mr. Vargas was found later in Reedley where he led officers on a high speed chase, ending when he leg-bailed from his still-moving vehicle in an orchard in Tulare County.

Today, the jury deliberated roughly two and a half hours before convicting Mr. Vargas of felony violations of:

1. Attempted Murder [Penal Code § 664/187(a)];
2. Shooting at a Vehicle [Penal Code § 246];
3. Assault with a Semi-Automatic Firearm [Penal Code § 245(b)];
4. Being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm [Penal Code § 29800]; and
5. Being a Felon in Possession of Ammunition [Penal Code § 30305].

The jury also found that the defendant discharged and used a firearm in the commission of the offenses.

Mr. Vargas faces up to 30 years in custody at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation when he is sentenced on May 17, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., in Department 73 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

The defendant is in custody at the Fresno County Jail pending his sentencing.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us with questions.

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