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MARIO ALBERTO LOZANO EXTRADITED FOR ROLE IN 2004 HOMICIDE

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that Mario Alberto Lozano has been extradited from Mexico and returned to Watsonville, for his role in the December 2004 homicide of Isaac Guzman.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations, Watsonville Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the United States Department of Justice Office of International Affairs, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency, the California Department of Justice, and Mexican authorities including *Interpol Mexico*, *La Policía Estatal Preventiva* (The State Preventive Police), *La Procuraduría General de la República* (Office of the General Prosecutor), Lozano was identified, arrested and held pending the extradition.

The homicide occurred on December 3, 2004, late in the afternoon near Hector's Bakery on Airport Boulevard in Watsonville. Lozano chased, knocked down, and then viciously and repeatedly stabbed Isaac Guzman as he lay helpless on the ground. Guzman was pronounced dead at the scene. The drivers of two of cars that had stopped, followed Lozano as he fled and one of them took photographs. Those photographs were ultimately used to identify Lozano.

Lozano fled the country within days of the murder with the help of his mother. Former Santa Cruz County District Attorney Bob Lee prosecuted and convicted Lozano's mother in 2004 for aiding in his escape.

Rosell commended the cooperation and collaboration between the District Attorney's Office and the other agencies, despite the potential challenges of working across international borders. He said, "This extradition process could not have gone any smoother. Our office is extremely proud of the tireless and relentless effort towards pursuing justice and bringing this dangerous fugitive back to the United States. This process would not be possible without the diligence of all of the participating agencies. The victim's family and our communities can now have some sense of relief knowing that this dangerous individual is no longer running free."

Lozano will be arraigned tomorrow in Department 6 at 8:15 a.m.

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