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PRESS RELEASE

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Greeley Gang Leader Sentenced to Life, Plus 98 Years in Prison

GREELEY, Colo. (Weld County D.A.) – Weld County District Attorney Michael Rourke announced today that well-known gang leader John Anthony Silva, who was convicted of first-degree murder among other charges, was sentenced to life in prison without parole plus 98 years in the Department of Corrections.

“This strict sentencing ends the terror Mr. Silva has inflicted on our community,” DA Rourke said. “Hopefully, this will send a message to anyone who wants to participate in gang activity. If you do, we will send you away for a very long time. In Mr. Silva’s case, he’ll never walk the streets again.”

A jury convicted Silva, 35, of murder in the first degree, violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, first-degree burglary, aggravated robbery, intimidating a witness and felony drug charges in early August.

During the course of the trial, Chief Deputy District Attorney Tony Perea and Deputy District Attorney Michael Parraglia walked the jury through nearly two decades of Silva’s criminal activities, 12 years of which included a stint in the DOC for the manslaughter of a 16-year-old boy, Bobby Watson.

But Silva’s crime-spree didn’t stop after his release from prison in 2013. While on parole in August 2013, Silva and other gang members brutally murdered Gumercindo Munoz-Vizcaino by bludgeoning him to death with a medieval weapon known as a flail. They also repeatedly stabbed him, which caused him to bleed out.

One year later, Silva – who was still on parole - and other gang members robbed a coin store at gunpoint.

“Time and time again, Mr. Silva has proven he can’t function in our society,” Rourke added. “Even after the board released him on parole, he killed a man, robbed a store and operated a drug ring. The time is long past due that he be put behind bars for the rest of his life.”

Sentencing Breakdown:

First-Degree Murder – Life without parole

COCCA violation – 48 years in DOC

Aggravated robbery – 32 years in DOC

Retaliation of a witness – 12 years in DOC

Class 3 felony drug charge – 6 years in DOC

****All charges run consecutively****

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6