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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 5, 2016
Contact: Terasina White • twhite@co.weld.co.us • 970.356.4010
Re: Gang Leader Convicted of Homicide and Colorado Organized Crime Control Act

Greeley, CO - On August 5, 2016, a jury convicted John Anthony Silva (d.o.b. 5/12/81), a known Northern Colorado Norteno affiliated street gang leader, to numerous charges including Murder in the First Degree, a class 1 felony, Violation of Colorado Organized Crime Act, a class 2 felony, First Degree Burglary, a class 3 felony; Aggravated Robbery, a class 3 felony; Intimidating a Witness or Victim, a class 4 felony and Inducement-Controlled Substances, a class 3 drug felony.

The Murder in the First Degree charge arose from the 2013 gang related homicide of Gumercindo "Carlos" Munoz. The Greeley Police Department began investigating the incident after a call came in on August 15, 2013 with a report of a dead body being found in a home at 2127 5th Street, Greeley, CO 80631. Investigators learned that John Silva and the other co-defendant's confronted the victim at his home about a domestic incident he had the previous night with his girlfriend. The group beat the victim to death with a morningstar.

The Violation of Colorado Organized Crime Control Act charge alleged that between April 17, 1998 and November 17, 2014 that the defendant, and other members of the Norteno gang, "were associated in fact, although not a legal entity, unlawfully feloniously and knowingly participated, directly or indirectly in an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity." The charge also states that the purpose of the enterprise was "financial gain through illegal activities, to establish and maintain respect, power, control and influence over the enter gang sub-culture in prison and in the community through criminal activity, intimidation, fear and violence."

"Through the hard-work of the Greeley Police Department and the prosecution team, the community and more importantly all the victims of Mr. Silva's crimes can be assured that he will not be out in society to continue his cycle of violence." Assistant District Attorney Robb Miller said. *"This verdict should continue to send a strong message that our community will not tolerate this type of criminal behavior."*

The defendant will be sentenced on September 19, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in Division 15 of the Weld County Court. On Murder in the First Degree, the defendant faces life without parole and up to 130 years for all of the other charges. Chief Deputy District Attorney Anthony Perea and Deputy District Attorney Michael Pirraglia prosecuted the case.

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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