

Pierce County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GANG MEMBER GUILTY IN MURDER OF CAMILLE LOVE

TACOMA, WA -- Today a Pierce County jury returned three guilty verdicts against Eduardo Sandoval, 22, for the drive-by shooting death of 20-year-old Camille Love and injury to her brother Joshua on February 7, 2010. The jury found the defendant guilty of Murder in the First Degree, Assault in the First Degree, and Conspiracy to Commit Murder. Sandoval was one of 19 Eastside Lokotos Surenos (ELS) gang members who were arrested and charged in a Gang Unit sweep in 2010.

On February 5, 2010, a presumed rival gang member shot at members of the ELS gang outside a club on Tacoma's Eastside. Over the next two days, ELS leader Juan Zuniga and members of his gang planned retaliation. On February 7, several carloads of ELS gang members drove to the Eastside to shoot at rivals. Co-defendants Saul Mex and Santiago Mederos fired upon Camille's car as she and her brother drove down Portland Avenue. Camille and Joshua were mistakenly targeted as gang members because their car was red and Joshua happened to be wearing a red coat. Red is the color associated with rival Blood gangs. Camille died at the scene.

Near the end of trial, Mex and co-defendant Jarrod Messer pled guilty to First Degree Murder. Co-defendant Time Time pled guilty to Leading Organized Crime. Warrants are outstanding for two others who are believed to have fled the country. Remaining co-defendant Dean Salavea is scheduled to begin trial January 19. Zuniga was murdered by his own gang members in May 2010.

This is one of four major sweeps by the Prosecutor's Office Gang Unit. In February 2010, 36 Hilltop Crips were charged with a string of violent offenses. In Fall 2010, 19 ELS gang members were charged with three murders that occurred in early 2010, including the murder of Camille Love. In March 2011, 26 Hilltop Crips were charged in a series of burglary and property crimes. In May 2011, a dozen Tillicum Park Gangsters were charged with gun and drug crimes.

"Gang Unit Deputy Prosecutors Greg Greer and Jared Ausserer did an outstanding job in this hard-fought trial," Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. "We hope this brings some closure for the Love family and helps reduce gang violence in our community."

Deputy Prosecutors Greg Greer and Jared Ausserer prosecuted the four defendants in a joint trial. Sandoval was found to be an active accomplice and co-conspirator in the crimes and faces a sentence of 60 to 75 years in prison when sentenced on February 3, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 304.

For more information contact Rebecca Stover at (253) 798-4910 or rstover@co.pierce.wa.us.