

# County of Mono Office of the District Attorney

[www.monocountydistrictattorney.org](http://www.monocountydistrictattorney.org)

**Bridgeport Office:**  
Main St. Court House, P.O. Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA. 93517  
Tel:(760)932-5550 fax: (760)932-5551



**Mammoth Office:**  
Sierra Center Mall, P.O. Box 2053  
Mammoth Lakes, CA. 93546  
Tel:(760)924-1710 fax: (760)924-1711

*Tim Kendall - District Attorney*

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## **OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE MURDER OF OMAR HERNANDEZ**

On January 30, 2020, after a three-year investigation, the Mono County District Attorney's Office, with the assistance of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department, (MLPD) and the Mono County Sheriff's Department, (MCSO) arrested 28 year-old Josue Adalberto Corea-Vasquez of Mammoth Lakes for the 2016 murder of Mammoth Lakes resident Jose Omar Hernandez Sanchez, also known as Omar Hernandez.

Mr. Corea-Vasquez will be arraigned on charges of special circumstance first-degree murder on Monday, February 3, 2020 and currently is being held in custody on a no bail warrant. After a complete review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime and the suspect, as well as consultation and input with the victim's family, the District Attorney will decide whether to seek the death penalty in the coming months.

Over the last three years since the murder of Mr. Hernandez, the Office of the District Attorney has continually investigated this murder and considered solving it a top priority. Investigators for the District Attorney's Office have received hundreds of tips throughout the investigation and have followed up on numerous items of evidence. Over this past year, the Office discovered new information that ultimately lead to additional evidence and the identification of Mr. Corea-Vasquez.

Mr. Corea-Vasquez has been a resident of Mammoth Lakes for over 10 years and was an employee at the local Vons. The victim Mr. Hernandez was his supervisor at the time of the murder. As the investigation continued, it was discovered that an alleged on-going dispute between the suspect and victim ultimately led Mr. Corea-Vasquez to plan out the murder of Mr. Hernandez. In the early hours of October 9, 2016, knowing the victim would be leaving for a graveyard shift at Vons, Mr. Corea-Vasquez waited for the victim outside of his house with an assault rifle and fired numerous rounds killing him.

During the arrest and search of Mr. Corea-Vasquez's vehicle and home by the District Attorney's Office and the MLPD additional evidence was collected. In interviews conducted by MLPD the location of the assault rifle that was used by Mr. Corea-Vasquez was obtained.

MLPD with the assistance of MCSO retrieved the assault rifle which was located buried in the forest. The rifle will be sent out by the District Attorney for forensic testing to confirm that it was the actual rifle used in the murder.

Also arrested for being an accessory to the crime was 29 year-old Eliud Corea-Vasquez, brother of Josue Adalberto Corea-Vasquez and resident of Mammoth Lakes. Eliud Corea-Vasquez assisted in burial of the firearm and other evidence in order to assist in covering up his brother's crime. He will be arraigned on Monday, February 3, 2020 and is currently being held in custody with a \$500,000 bail.

The District Attorney's Office wants to remind the community that while certain cases take time to solve and can grow "cold" over time, this Office along with our local law enforcement agencies, continues to actively investigate many of them, especially heinous crimes such as this one. The Office would not be able to successfully prosecute these crimes without the assistance of the public who bravely come forward with information.

If anyone has information in connection with this case, please contact Chief Investigator Chris Callinan at the Mono County District Attorney's Office.