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NEWS RELEASE

**GANG MEMBER SENTENCED FOR MURDER OF
13-YEAR-OLD BOY KILLED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING**

RIVERSIDE – A Perris man was sentenced today, Jan. 15, 2010, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for his involvement in the 2002 murder of an innocent 13-year-old boy during a drive-by shooting.

Zeus Murillo Serrano, DOB 5-19-82, was the driver of the car from which another gang member, Daniel Murillo Salgado, DOB 1-13-80, of Perris fired the deadly shots.

Markess Lancaster was killed as he and two friends rode in a car near the intersection of Central and Hillside in the city of Riverside. The boys were on their way to watch a local football game but first stopped at a store to get a soda. As they drove from the store, a carload of Latinos drove slowly past them, flashing gang signs for "East Side Riva," a very violent criminal street gang in Riverside.

In broad daylight and in a residential neighborhood, Salgado fired several shots at the car Markess and his friends were in. One shot hit Markess in the chest, killing him. Several rounds also hit the walls of a nearby home, but did not go through or hit anyone inside. Salgado is still awaiting trial (case RIF148839) for the murder and faces the death penalty.

Jurors on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, found Serrano guilty of first-degree murder among other counts including conspiracy to commit murder and the attempted murders of the other occupants in the car. Jurors found that Serrano committed the crimes to benefit a criminal street gang.

The case, RIF106251, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samah Shouka.

"In these types of cases there are no winners. Nothing can bring this 13-year-old victim back to life," Shouka said. "For the victim's family I know this sentence gives them some comfort, but it is not enough. My hope is that one day, when all those responsible for Markess' murder are held accountable, the family can start to rebuild their lives."

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