



ROD PACHECO  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF  
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 12, 2010

**CONTACT: John Hall, PIO**  
**(951) 955-8662**

**\*CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE\***

**LAKE ELSINORE MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON  
FOR MURDER COMMITTED DURING \$50 ROBBERY**

MURRIETA – Today, March 12, 2010, a Lake Elsinore man was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for murdering a man during a Thanksgiving 2007 robbery that netted him \$50.

Keith Jerome Dean, DOB: 12-14-88, was convicted in October 2009 of murdering Hugo Velasquez, 48, who was beaten to death as he walked home from a Circle K store on Main Street in Lake Elsinore. Velasquez's body was discovered just before 11:30 p.m. in the middle of East Heald Avenue by a Lake Elsinore police officer patrolling the area. The victim had a faint pulse, but was pronounced dead at 12:12 a.m. at a nearby hospital.

A man who left the store with Velasquez told police they were attacked by a man who jumped out of some bushes. A review of surveillance video from the Circle K led authorities to Dean, who lived about a block away from the store. Dean saw the victim with money inside the business and then attacked him a few minutes later, punching him twice in the face before rummaging through Velasquez's pockets for cash.

Dean was convicted of first-degree murder, with a special circumstance of committing the murder during a robbery. He also was convicted of attempted robbery for his crime against the victim who was with Velasquez.

Judge Mark Petersen sentenced Dean today at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

The case, SWF023807, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brandon Smith.

###

**3960 Orange Street - Riverside CA, 92501**  
**[www.RivCoDA.org](http://www.RivCoDA.org)**