



PRESS RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Homicide Investigation and Arrest

Case # – 16-09907

Person Arrested – Jose Luis Ramos, 31 years old, Watsonville resident

Victims – Santiago Avalos Sanchez, 28 years old, Soquel resident

Maria Ponce Rocha, 32 years old, Watsonville resident

Date of Incident – December 12th, 2016 at about 2:24 pm

Location of Incident – North Rodeo Gulch Rd. and Soquel Dr., Soquel

Charges – 187 PC – Murder

664/187 PC – Attempted Murder



At 2:24 pm our Office received reports of a shooting near North Rodeo Gulch Rd. and Soquel Dr. During the investigation Santiago Avalos Sanchez and Maria Ponce Rocha were found to be shot multiple times. Both victims were rushed to medical centers where they underwent extensive treatment. Unfortunately, Santiago Avalos Sanchez died of his injuries. Maria Ponce Rocha underwent surgery and is in stable yet critical condition at this time.

During the ensuing investigation Detectives learned that Jose Luis Ramos knew Maria Ponce Rocha and Detectives identified Ramos as a suspect in this case. Acting on leads, Detectives located Ramos in the 3000 block of Porter St. in Soquel and his vehicle was found nearby. During Ramos's arrest methamphetamine and a methamphetamine pipe were found. A wrapped object was also found near Ramos and is being examined by Sheriff's Office Forensic Criminalists to determine if it is a gun or other item.

Jose Luis Ramos was arrested for the murder of Santiago Avalos Sanchez, attempted murder of Maria Ponce Rocha and was booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail. Ramos's bail is currently set at \$2 million dollars. An autopsy is scheduled for today (12-13-16) to determine Santiago Avalos Sanchez's manner and cause of death.

Detectives are continuing to gather evidence and information in this case. Should you have information related to this investigation the Sheriff's Office asks you to call 831-471-1121 to speak to a detective.

Prepared by: Sergeant Chris Clark /December 13, 2016

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