



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Sheriff-Coroner

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Media Release: February 10, 2022 **Suspects in October Homicide Arrested**

Two juveniles and one adult have been arrested for their involvement in the October 2021 murder of 21-year-old Abel Ruiz.

On Sunday, October 17, 2021 at around 8:00pm, deputies were dispatched to the area of Carlton Rd and Coward Rd in Watsonville for a person in medical distress. Upon their arrival, deputies found Mr. Ruiz suffering from a gunshot wound. He was taken to a local hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. The adult suspect, 20-year-old Juan Carlos Almaraz Rios, is being held at the Santa Cruz County Jail on murder charges. The two juvenile suspects are being held in juvenile hall on murder charges.

PREPARED BY:
Ashley Keehn
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

