

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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TIME 9:30 AM

One Year Without a Gang Related Homicide

Modesto, CA- The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department has gone one year without a gang related homicide. Over the past year the staffing levels have improved and Sheriff Adam Christianson has added more deputies to the Sheriff's Street Team Investigation Narcotics and Gangs (S.T.I.N.G.).

Over the past year the many changes have helped the gang detectives fight the gang problem in Stanislaus County. With improved staffing levels, the S.T.I.N.G. Unit is staffed seven-days a week. The S.T.I.N.G. Unit now also works very closely with the Modesto Police Department's Street Crimes Unit and the countywide Gang Impact Taskforce. "Gang members don't commit crimes in only the city limits or the county," said Sergeant John Walker of the S.T.I.N.G. Unit. "With all of us working together, we are making it harder for gang members to commit crimes anywhere in the county."

Another big change is the help law enforcement is receiving from the public. "With the tips we receive from the citizens in our community, we can be more efficient in meeting the needs of the community," said Sheriff Adam Christianson. "With the citizens working with law enforcement, we will continue to make a difference and force gang members out of our neighborhoods."

The last gang related homicide was on August 19, 2007 when the victim, Kevin ARGUETA, was confronted by a group of men in 1600 block of Crows Landing Road. The suspects asked ARGUETA what gang he belonged to, and then shot and killed him. ARGUETA was not a gang member. The suspect Jose BARAJAS, Steven PACK, and Nicholas CASTANEDA are all in custody on this case.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Ken Hedrick at (209) 525-7083. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.