



## **Banning Police Department**

125 E. Ramsey Street, Banning, CA 92220 (951) 922-3170

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### *Press Release*

**Date:** May 5, 2021

**Case#** 17-474

**Location:** 1000 Block of North Hargrave Street City of Banning.

**Incident:** **Cold Case Homicide**

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On February 9, 2017 at approximately 3:07 am Officers of the Banning Police Department were dispatched to the area of the 1000 Block of North Hargrave Street in the City of Banning County of Riverside for a report of shots fired. Officers arrived and located the body of a male subject, who was later identified as Henry Steven Waters Jr. Waters suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Banning Police Detectives were summoned to the scene and assumed the investigation. The scene was processed, and several interviews were conducted; however, the case went cold.

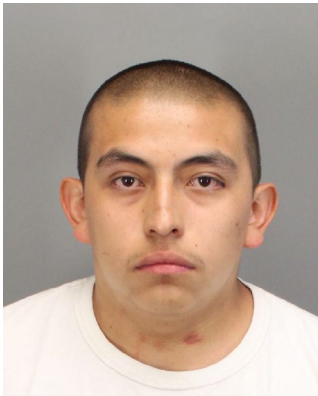
In 2019, The Banning Police Department Detective Bureau, after reviewing evidence from other crime scenes started finding similarities and evidence that was similar to other crimes that were being perpetrated in the City of Banning and outside of the City. Over time Detectives started creating lists of persons of interest and worked to eliminate suspects from the list through intensive investigation. As previously stated in a former press release, this monumental task was nearly impossible without having the proper staffing levels in the Detective Bureau. The Chief of the Banning Police Department, Matthew Hamner met with the veteran staff of the PD and listened to their ideas and concerns, it was decided that there was a need for additional Detectives to work through this complicated task. Chief Hamner had to make the difficult decision to remove officers from patrol and reassign them to the Detective Bureau, to effectively work these complicated murder investigations. This decision has been paying off and continues to do so.

On May 3, 2021 Suspect Jose Verduco Jr. of Banning and Samuel Vasquez of Banning have been formally charged with the Murder of Henry Waters. On February 9, 2017 at approximately 3:00am, Waters had been walking with a friend, who will not be identified, in the area of the 1000 Block of North Hargrave Street in the City of Banning, when a vehicle pulled up next to Waters and his friend. Jose Verduco Jr. and Samuel Vasquez exited the vehicle and shot Waters several times killing him. They also attempted to shoot Waters' friend, who had run and hid during the incident. This unprovoked cowardly criminal act again took the life of subject who was only walking with a friend.

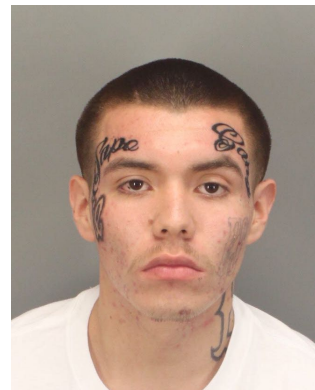
Victim Henry Steven Waters Jr.



Suspect Samuel Vasquez



Suspect Jose Verduco Jr.



The Banning Police Department is asking anyone who may have additional information in regards to this case to contact the Banning Police Department Detective Bureau at (951) 922-3170.