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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chico Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation Heat Up Cold Case Homicide
-- Law Enforcement Agencies Seek to Spur New Leads --

Chico, CA – The Chico Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are seeking information from the public to help solve a cold case homicide that occurred April 6, 2013, at 3549 Esplanade in Chico. The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for this crime.

On April 6, 2013, Chico Police officers responded to a report of a gunshot victim at 3549 Esplanade in Chico. Upon arrival, officers located the victim who was seated inside a small pick-up truck and had sustained an apparent gunshot wound to his head. Officers secured the crime scene and the victim was transported to an area hospital. The victim, later identified as 52-year old Jeronimo Valladares-Mata, a Corning resident, died six days later as the result of his injuries.

Jeronimo Valladares-Mata is the brother of Audelino Valladares-Mata, who was murdered August 1, 2007 by an assailant armed with a handgun. The incident took place at a mobile home park located at 123 Henshaw Avenue in Chico. The homicide of Audelino Valladares-Mata also remains unsolved.

“These two men were innocent victims who did not have any connection to criminal activity,” said Chico Police Chief Michael O’Brien. “We would like to see those responsible brought to justice and are seeking help from the public to make that happen.”

Anyone with information about the 2013 homicide of Jeronimo Valladares-Mata is urged to contact the Chico Police Department tip line at 530.897.5899, or submit a tip to tips.fbi.gov.

Tips can also be submitted regarding the 2007 homicide of Audelino Valladares-Mata via the Chico Police Department tip line at 530.897.5899. Tips may be submitted anonymously.

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The Chico Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is a safe place to live, work, and recreate within!