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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

November 15, 2005

On August 18, 1980, a senseless murder occurred in the City of Santa Maria, and remains unsolved today. 18 year old Robert (Bobby) Lee Lopez was the victim of a gang-related attack wherein he suffered a single stab wound to his abdomen. The assault occurred in the Evan's Park area of Santa Maria, near the intersection of Pine Street and Donovan Rd. Bobby died of his injuries.

There were several young adults (reported to be as many as fifty), that were in the area at the time of the attack. It is believed that several actually witnessed the stabbing. All of them denied to detectives, and later a Grand Jury, as having witnessed the murder. The person believed to be the suspect also denied any involvement in the death. This one suspect remains free today, largely because of our belief that the witnesses have been intimidated to the point of refusing to cooperate. Although the investigation reached many roadblocks years ago, Bobby Lopez' family and the Santa Maria Police Department are still seeking justice.

In 2003, the Santa Maria Police Department began a "cold-case" investigation into this homicide. Because of this investigation, the Santa Maria Police Department requested the assistance of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Penal Code Section 1547(a) gives the Governor the authority to authorize reward money that may lead to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons responsible for a homicide that is punishable by the death penalty. On November 11, 2005, the Governor signed a proclamation that authorizes a reward of up to \$50,000.00 for an individual's cooperation that will ultimately lead to conviction.

If anyone has information about this homicide please contact the Santa Maria Police Department at (805) 928-3781 or www.cityofsantamaria.org/crimetips.