

# Merced Police Department

## NEWS RELEASE

August 15, 2019

Sgt. Reynaldo Alvarez  
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### For Immediate Release

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Incident: Homicide

Date and Time: July 14, 2019 at 11:32 P.M.

Location: 1300 block Merced Ave, Merced Ca

Victim(s): Adult Male (48)

Arrested Persons: Stuart Nagata (39), Karla Perez (35)

Case Number: 19-41450

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On July 14, 2019, Merced Police Department (MPD) officers responded to the 1300 block of Merced Ave for a shooting. When officers arrived on scene, they found an adult male who had been shot. The male was unresponsive and he was pronounced deceased on scene.

MPD detectives were called out to the scene and they began following up on leads. Detectives were able to identify Stuart Nagata and Karla Perez as suspects in the shooting. Detectives learned that Nagata and Perez had fled the scene in a white vehicle. On July 16, 2019, MPD detectives located the suspect vehicle parked at a residence on Gage Street in Planada.

Once the vehicle was recovered, detectives learned that Nagata and Perez had fled the Merced area. On August 10, 2019, MPD detectives developed information that led them to a residence in Lindsay, Ca. MAGNET, MPD detectives and the Gang Violence Suppression Unit conducted an operation in Lindsay which resulted in the arrest of Nagata and Perez.

On August 15, 2019, Nagata and Perez were transported back to Merced where they were booked for several felonies including murder and gang enhancements. Nagata is a validated Nuestra Familia Prison gang member. Perez has ties to the Norteno criminal street gang.

Merced Police are asking anyone with any information regarding this crime to contact Detective Calvin Haygood at (209) 385-6998. The public can send information via anonymous text messages to police department by dialing "TIP411" (847411) and including the word "Comvip" as the "keyword" in the text message.

