



## PRESS RELEASE

### Jury Sentences Man to Life in Prison for Murder

September 19, 2023

Bryan, TX - Luis Solis, of College Station, Texas was sentenced to Life in prison for the Murder of Osiel Benitez-Herrera.

In May 2019, College Station Police Department responded to a call from a concerned neighbor. She reported to 911 that she could hear someone screaming for help and calling out the name “Gonzo” in the home next door. She described a man walking back and forth on the front porch who then ran into the woods. Approximately 20 minutes later the defendant called 911 to report his roommate had been hurt but hung up the call before any identifying information could be obtained.

CSPD went to the home to discover what would later be described as a gruesome death for Benitez-Herrera. Solis called 911 a second time to report he was at the Wal-Mart minutes away. Upon contact the defendant said he arrived home to find his roommate dead.

CSPD began to contact family and friends of both men. Police recovered a voicemail from the defendant to his cousin left minutes before the 911 call. Members of the jury heard the victim’s cries for help and calling the defendant by his nickname, pleading “Gonzo, no.”

Clothing worn by Solis that night was collected as well as a suspicious bat known to belong to the defendant. DNA testing confirmed the victim’s blood located on the inside of the defendant’s clothing and the barrel end of the bat. The defendant’s DNA was also on the handle of the bat. The jury heard from the medical examiner that the overwhelming injuries were a result of blunt force trauma consisted with a baseball bat.

The Brazos County District Attorney’s Office thanks the CSPD, Bryan PD & University PD for their thorough investigation and dedication to this case. The DA’s Office was represented by Kristin Burns, Gretchen Helmuth, James Woodward & Melissa Carter. The case was investigated by both the Bryan and College Station Police Departments.

**“The jury’s swift verdict of guilty and a life sentence sends a clear message that this type of senseless violence will not be accepted in our community.” - Asst. District Attorneys Kristin Burns and Gretchen Helmuth**

