



City of Gilroy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2012

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Today, after two weeks of trial and one week of deliberations an eight member federal civil jury returned a verdict awarding \$1.25 million dollars to the spouse and children of Gurmit Singh who was fatally shot by Gilroy Police Corporal Eustaquio "Paco" Rodriguez. The shooting occurred on February 8, 2008. The federal jury found Singh 50% liable in a comparative negligence determination regarding the incident.

"We are very disappointed at the verdict and do not share the Jury's determination that Corporal Rodriguez should be faulted in any way for this incident," stated Police Chief Denise Turner.

"Corporal Rodriguez defended himself from attack by Gurmit Singh, amid very dangerous circumstances. Independent investigations by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the Santa Clara County Grand Jury, as well as an investigation by this police department, all found that Corporal Rodriguez acted in self defense, within department policy, and that his actions were justifiable," said Chief Turner.

On February 8, 2008, Corporal Rodriguez fired two shots at Gurmit Singh after Singh attacked him on the side of Highway 152. Rodriguez stopped to render him assistance after seeing him lying on the highway with his head in the westbound travel lane endangering himself and others. Several drivers

swerved into oncoming traffic to avoid hitting him. Rodriguez was headed back to the Gilroy Police Department after serving a subpoena in Gustine. Rodriguez attempted to gain cooperation from Singh who was left on the side of the road by family members whom Singh was violently attacking in their car. Singh did not comply with Corporal Rodriguez's commands or directions and then suddenly stood up and came at Corporal Rodriguez in a football tackle mode. Rodriguez felt that his life was in jeopardy and that Singh was attempting to take his weapon and as a result he fired two shots at Singh. Other officers arrived on scene to gain control of Singh and provide medical care. Singh later died of his wounds.

The three other named officers in this case were found to have no liability in the incident. The jury did not award punitive damages in their decision. The city is defended by the ABAG PLAN self-insurance fund and the bases for both post trial motions and an appeal are currently being evaluated.