

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **ELGIN GANG TRIO PLEADS GUILTY TO 2014 SEX ASSAULT VICTIM WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS AS SHE WAS RAPED**

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Three Elgin street gang members are headed to prison for sexually assaulting a woman who was barely conscious at the time.

24-year old **Daniel Hernandez Gutierrez** of South Elgin and 21-year-old **Jose L. Vazquez, Jr.**, of Elgin today each agreed to a sentence of 18 years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to two counts aggravated criminal sexual assault, Class X felony.

26-year-old **Eric N. Cruz** on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, pleaded guilty to two counts aggravated criminal sexual assault, Class X felony, in the case. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Kane County Associate Judge Linda S. Abrahamson accepted the pleas.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Cullen stated in court that Dec. 9-10, 2014, Vazquez and Hernandez-Gutierrez each sexually assaulted a barely conscious young woman while Cruz used his cell phone to video record the crimes. During the rapes the trio of defendants laughed and represented their gangs by making gang hand signs and statements referring to their gang. At one point Cruz said, "Show what's up with the Insanes. Right here we're Insane Deuce, Insane Cobra." Vazquez laughingly responded, "Put my face in that camera. We out here folks be King killing Maniac killing." The rapes happened at the home of a friend of the gang members.

In addition to the prison terms, each of the men must register for life as a sexual offender in accordance with the Illinois Sexual Offender Registration Act.

According to Illinois law, each offender must serve at least 85 percent of the sentence. Hernandez Gutierrez received credit for 1,274 days served in the Kane County jail, and Vazquez received credit for 1,253 days served in jail. Cruz remains in the Kane County jail without bond.

"These three defendants committed degrading acts, and even video recorded their crimes. They belong in prison. Their guilty pleas relieve the victim of having to see her attackers again and talk publicly about how she was raped while she was nearly

unconscious,” Kane County State’s Attorney Joe McMahon said. “My thanks to ASAs Joseph Cullen and Bianca Camargo, and the Elgin Police Department for their work in this case.”

**Eric N. Cruz:** Age 26 (d.o.b. 7-30-1991), of the 700 block of Dixon Avenue, Elgin

**Daniel Hernandez Gutierrez:** Age 24 (d.o.b. 3-22-1994), of the 700 block of Dean Drive, South Elgin

**Jose L. Vazquez, Jr.:** Age 21 (d.o.b. 8-25-1996), of the 1-99 block of Longwood Circle, Elgin