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The man accused of smashing windows out of an adult-club dancer's car — and shooting to death two people inside, and wounding another — pleaded guilty to two counts of malice murder Thursday.

Abraham Alcaraz-Vasquez was sentenced to life in prison without parole, Clayton County District Attorney Tracy Graham Lawson said.

Alcaraz-Vasquez was accused in the Dec. 1, 2006 shooting deaths of Jitaan Leigh Ann Hornsby, a 19-year-old dancer at the Crazy Horse Saloon in Forest Park, and 24-year-old Adam Rodriguez.

He was also accused of shooting, in the hand, Tiffany Smith, also a 19-year-old Crazy Horse dancer at the time, as she sat in the back seat of Hornsby's white Ford Contour.

Police said that Alcaraz-Vasquez was upset that Hornsby and Smith went to work at the club the night of his 22nd birthday, Nov. 30, instead of accompanying him to an Atlanta restaurant to celebrate. Alcaraz-Vasquez had known Hornsby for a few months, police said, but did not know she was pregnant with another man's child.

According to police, he followed Hornsby, Rodriguez and Smith after they left the strip club and caught up to them on Conley Road around 2 a.m., before cutting them off and forcing the car to a stop.

Rodriguez was shot once in the head. Smith, riding in the back seat of the Ford, was shot in the hand. She ran from the car into a nearby overgrown area and called police on her cell phone, police said.

Hornsby, four months pregnant, was shot several times in the legs and once in the head, police said. She was initially thought to be dead at the scene, police said, but medic units detected signs of life and rushed her to a hospital. She died later that day.


Alcaraz-Vasquez reportedly fled the state after the shooting, but was apprehended a week later in Decatur, Ala. Police said family and friends told them he was heading for Mexico.

It was not clear why he had only made it as far as Alabama after several days on the run.

Lawson, the district attorney, said Alcaraz-Vasquez apologized to the victims' family members Thursday, and that they were pleased with the outcome of the case.

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"He shot Ms. Hornsby in both legs and then point blank in her skull," Lawson told the judge as she pointed between her eyes.

The woman was 17 weeks pregnant.

Adam Rodriguez, an intoxicated club patron who was passed out in Hornsby's car, was struck in the neck by a stray bullet, severing his spine and killing him, Lawson said.

Smith, who was in the backseat, put her hands up. A bullet struck the 19-year-old's hand, missing her head by inches, Lawson said. She received minor injuries.

Vasquez was arrested a week later in Alabama and confessed to the shootings, Lawson said.

He was initially facing the death penalty. But the victims' families told prosecutors they would be satisfied with seeking life without parole.

Under Vasquez's plea, prosecutors dismissed 12 other charges, including feticide.

Superior Court Judge Matthew Simmons told Vasquez, who is not a legal citizen, that he could face deportation after he completes his life sentence.

Vasquez told the judge he understood and still wanted to plead guilty.



After the sentencing, Lewis Hornsby, surrounded by his wife and Rodriguez's family, stood before the court and finally found the words he's been searching since losing his daughter.

"I hated you so bad that I could have killed you myself," he told Vasquez. "I forgive you for this thing you did. ... I hate what you did. I will never hold that grandbaby. Abraham, I want you to pray everyday for forgiveness. I want your family to rest in peace knowing that you're not going to die."

Sheriff's deputies then led Vasquez to prison.

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