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advisory vote on what should be  
the city of Santa Cruz' average

municipal election to choose  
four Santa Cruz City Council  
members for four-year terms.

12-6-78

# Murder Charge Dropped In Pot Farm Shooting

*Cummi & cumunale*  
By PEGGY R. TOWNSEND  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Murder charges were dropped today against an 18-year-old Scotts Valley man arrested in connection with a raid and fatal shooting at a Soquel marijuana farm in late October.

The district attorney's office today filed an amended complaint against Daniel Pierce which did not carry the murder charge. Pierce still faces charges of harboring a criminal and conspiracy to commit an armed robbery.

Pierce was arrested with seven other juveniles in connection with the fatal shooting of 30-year-old Dennis Johnson at his Soquel marijuana farm.

Five of the juveniles admitted to robbery charges on the condition that the district attorney's office drop murder charges against them.

A sixth juvenile agreed to testify for the prosecution and does not face charges in connection with the case. The seventh juvenile — 17-year-old Norman Dillon — is still charged with murder and is currently awaiting a decision to

see if he will be tried as an adult.

Today, Pierce waived his right to a preliminary hearing in the case and was ordered to appear in Superior Court Dec. 19 for an arraignment on the new charges. Pierce, dressed in blue jeans and a blue shirt, said little during this morning's hearing in Municipal Court. He is represented by attorney Peter Chang.

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