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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 1, 2018

Re: Lance Cory Vallejo
Robbery Conviction

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Lance Cory Vallejo, 50, of Modesto was convicted of robbery and battery after a three-day jury trial. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 19, 2017, the victim was confronted by Vallejo at the corner of Blue Gum Avenue and North Carpenter Road in Modesto. According to the victim, she had been using her cell phone when Vallejo approached, told her she should go back to Mexico, and then said he wanted the phone. When she refused to give it to him, he forcibly took it from her.

Modesto Police Officers caught Vallejo a short time later and recovered the victim's telephone.

During jury trial, Vallejo testified and denied making any racial comments. He also said that the police were rude to him. A portion of the recorded interaction between Vallejo and police was played for the jury, showing Officers treating him with respect and deference in stark contrast to his testimony.

Vallejo has a prior felony conviction for attempted arson from 2014. A court trial is set for May 4, 2018 before Judge Dawna Reeves to determine the validity of that prior. If found true, the conviction may count as 1) a "Strike" under California's Three Strikes Law; 2) a serious felony prior conviction and 3) a prior prison term, all of which may be used by the Judge to increase Vallejo's sentence in his current case. Under that scenario, the maximum potential sentence Vallejo faces is 15 years in state prison.

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