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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 29, 2019
Re: Sonny Wilkins
Attempted Robbery Convictions and Prison
Sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Sonny Wilkins, age 20, of Modesto, has been convicted of two counts of Attempted Robbery. Deputy District Attorney Ahna Reicks prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 16, 2018, at about 6:55 p.m., Victim #1 was standing with her son at a Redbox kiosk inside a local Modesto Save Mart. As she was paying, Wilkins tried to grab her purse from her arm while she screamed and tried to fight him off. An off-duty Modesto Police detective saw what was happening and he, along another customer, chased Wilkins until he fell in the parking lot and was caught.

Earlier that same day, around 3:05 p.m., Victim #2 and her four-year-old child were standing in the parking lot of a Modesto restaurant across the street from the Save Mart when Wilkins grabbed her from behind and tried to pry her wallet from underneath her arm. When she forcibly pushed him away and threatened him with pepper spray, Wilkins fled. Victim #2 later positively identified Wilkins as the perpetrator. Police also connected Wilkins to two additional similar crimes which occurred that day.

At the time of his arrest, Wilkins was on felony probation for a 2017 residential burglary conviction, a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law.

On March 19, 2019, Wilkins pled no contest to two counts of attempted robbery. He also admitted his prior burglary conviction which was used to double his prison sentence. Wilkins must also pay restitution to two other separate victims in exchange for those charges being dismissed.

Judge Thomas Zeff revoked Wilkins's felony probation and sentenced him to serve eight years and eight months in state prison on both cases.

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