



**OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**JAMES C. BRAZELTON**  
District Attorney

Stanislaus County Courthouse  
11th and I Streets  
Room 200, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353

**(209) 525-5550**

**FAX: (209) 525-5545**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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Re:

For more information contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney

(209) 525-5550

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James C. Brazelton announced today that Luis Antonio Cardenas, 20, Shawn Michael Morones, 23, Joseph Patrick Manson, 21, Ali Sena Safdari, 23 and Benhur Valdemar, 20, all from Tracy, were in the Stanislaus County Superior court for further arraignment on charges of premeditated attempted murder of 2 Modesto Police Officers.

Attorneys for both Cardenas and Safdari asked Judge Nancy Ashley to reduce their bail from \$500, 000. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston opposed both requests stating that Cardenas and Safdari pose a significant risk to the community since they are charged with attempted murder on police officers. Houston further argued that, under California law, the 2 defendants had not shown there were any “unusual circumstances” that would all the judge to reduce bail since they are charged with serious and violent felonies. Judge Ashley denied both defendant’s request and left bail for both at \$500, 000. Morones, Manson and Valdemar are also being held in the Stanislaus County Jail on \$500, 000 bail.

All 5 defendants return to court on May 21 at 1:30 p.m. in department 12 for further arraignment.

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