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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 4, 2018
Re: Ivy Scruggs
Felony Vandalism

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ivy Scruggs, age 54, of Modesto, has been convicted of felony vandalism and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Barry Shapiro prosecuted the case for the People.

On the morning of July 27, 2017, Scruggs, who is homeless, was staying at Garrison Park in Modesto while a Modesto city employee was conducting a land survey of the park using a piece of survey equipment. When the employee's attention was temporarily diverted, Scruggs walked up to the equipment and kicked it over, breaking it beyond repair. An individual who was working on a fence at a nearby elementary school witnessed Scruggs destroy the machine.

Scruggs was arrested and charged with felony vandalism. On June 21, 2018, after a two-day trial, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Scruggs of the crime. Evidence in the case showed it would cost the city \$26,400 to replace the broken survey equipment. The day after the verdict, a court trial was held before Judge Shawn Bessey who found that the defendant had previously suffered a "strike" conviction for residential burglary.

The defendant's criminal history dates back to 1985 when he was convicted of residential burglary and was sentenced to prison and it continued with the following convictions:

- In 1988-- DUI;
- In 1989--three separate criminal cases of driving on a suspended license based on his DUI conviction; battery on a peace officer; and another driving on a suspended license;
- In 1990--being under 21 in possession of alcohol;
- In 1991--two more incidents of driving on a suspended license and petty theft;
- In 1993--reckless driving;
- In 1994--false personation and misdemeanor vandalism;
- In 1995--possession of methamphetamine and cocaine;
- In 1999--possession of methamphetamine;
- In 2000--trespassing;
- In 2002--felony assault;
- In 2003--burglary and receiving stolen property which led to a five-year sentence;
- In 2008--domestic violence;
- In 2012--battery on a peace officer;

In 2012--misdemeanor vandalism;
In 2013--violating a restraining order and in a separate case petty theft;
In 2014--receiving stolen property; three separate cases of violations of a restraining order and another case of vandalism;
In 2015--possession of drug paraphernalia as well as another case of misdemeanor vandalism;
In 2016--trespassing;
In 2017 the current crime occurred for which Scruggs now stands convicted.

Scruggs has engaged in a repeated and consistent pattern of criminal activity over the last several decades in our community. Despite being given several opportunities to lead a law-abiding life over the last 30 years, he continued to violate the laws of this state, including four separate convictions for vandalism.

Scruggs, with absolutely no provocation, destroyed a piece of property that cost the city's taxpayers over \$26,000.00. At no point has he taken any responsibility or shown any remorse.

On September 28, 2018, Judge Bessey sentenced Scruggs to four years in state prison calculated as two years for the felony vandalism which was then doubled under California's "Three Strikes" law for having previously been convicted of residential burglary. As a result of Proposition 57 which allows early release on parole, he may be eligible for parole after serving about 18 months.

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