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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: June 4, 2019 Re: Oscar Lopez Flores

Felony convictions & prison sentence

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Oscar Lopez Flores, age 36, of Turlock, was sentenced on May 30, 2019 in three separate felony cases dating back to 2013. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan represented the People.

On December 5, 2013, Flores ran down a pedestrian near Walnut and Keyes Road in Stanislaus County. The pedestrian suffered major injuries and was hospitalized. California Highway Patrol officers found methamphetamine on Flores and determined that he was under the influence of drugs. A chemical test confirmed marijuana and methamphetamine in Flores's blood system and he admitted having used both drugs before driving.

Flores was charged with felony driving under the influence causing great bodily injury, which counts as a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law. He was also charged with having a prior strike conviction for robbery in 2005 and with having served a prior prison term on that case. Even though the charges were serious, Flores was able to post bail and remained out of custody on this 2013.

In September of 2015, Flores was caught with a loaded gun by Turlock Police officers. He was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm along with the same prior "strike" conviction for robbery and having a prison term as in his 2013 case.

In September of 2017, Flores was convicted of felony driving under the influence of drugs with an enhancement for causing great bodily injury on the first case and being a felon in possession of a firearm in the second case. The plea agreement included that he serve ten years in state prison. Unfortunately, he successfully petitioned Judge Linda McFadden to release him from custody prior to sentencing in order to handle various personal issues. Flores then failed to appear for sentencing on February 26, 2018. Five months later, Turlock Police officers chased him down and arrested

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him, finding methamphetamine on his person. A new felony charge of failing to appear for court and drug possession was filed along with an enhancement for being out on bail in each of his two other cases.

Various defense motions followed which delayed sentencing until May 30, 2019. On that date, Judge Linda McFadden denied Flores's final petition asking for leniency and ordered he serve a total of 21 years and 8 months in state prison on all three cases. This included doubling his sentence on each conviction for the prior robbery "strike" conviction, adding five years for his serious felony robbery prior plus another two years for each of the out on bail enhancements.

The felony driving under the influence causing great bodily injury conviction is considered a "violent" felony under California law, meaning Flores will be required to serve at least 85% of his sentence in actual prison custody. He is currently in jail awaiting transfer to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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