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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 30 November 2005

Re: Steven Louis Richards - 1078543

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John J. Goold, Chief Deputy
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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Steven Louis Richards, age 39, (transient), was sentenced to 95 years to Life under the Three Strikes law after a jury had convicted him of residential burglary, attempted residential burglary, commercial burglary, forgery and resisting arrest on October 20, 2005. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston prosecuted the case and argued for the maximum amount of time allowed under the law: 95 years to life in prison.

The case arose out of events which occurred on July 10, 2004 in the city of Modesto when a neighbor saw Richards walking out from behind her neighbor's house on Fairmont. The residents weren't home, but when they returned, they noticed their home had been broken into and their checkbook was missing. Later that day, Richards went into a check cashing business Mc Henry and tried to cash a check that he had taken from the burglary. When he was unable to cash the check, he left, but the employee kept a copy of his ID card and the check he tried to cash. On July 22, 2004, Richards tried to break into a house on Morris by using a rock he found on the ground. The residents were home, but Richards was unable to get into the house because Officers Dealba and Spurlock of the Modesto Police Dept. interrupted the burglary. When confronted, Richards struggled and resisted the officers while ignoring numerous commands.

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