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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 10/16/08
Re: The People v. William J. Carvalho

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that William J. Carvalho, Jr., age 31, of Modesto, was convicted of one count of Possession for Sale of Marijuana and one count of Transporting Marijuana following a three day jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Laugero prosecuted the case for the People.

During an unrelated police surveillance on November 2, 2007 in the city of Modesto, Carvalho was observed by Officer Joe Ramirez conducting transactions out of the trunk of his car. At least four different people approached Carvalho's car at different times and Carvalho would meet them at the trunk. Carvalho would use a remote to open the trunk, and Carvalho and the customer would look and reach inside the trunk. The customer would then leave. Officer Ramirez could not see what was being removed from the trunk, but determined it was a small item. Each time a customer would arrive and depart, Officer Ramirez would broadcast the description to other officers. As officers were responding, Carvalho got in the car and drove away. Carvalho was stopped after Officer Mullins and Officer Ramar observed a variety of traffic violations. Officers Dealba and Bolinger stopped Carvalho and upon contact with him, Officer DeAlba could smell marijuana emitting from the car and observed signs that Carvalho was possibly under the influence of a controlled substance. Carvalho denied having marijuana in the car, denied smoking marijuana, and would not consent to a search. Officer Bolinger saw marijuana on the driver's arm rest of the car in plain view. A search of the car was conducted, and two canisters were found, one in the backseat area, and one in the trunk. The container in the backseat contained two baggies of marijuana on top of \$230 cash. The canister in the trunk contained 5 individual baggies of marijuana. Carvalho was searched and found to have \$1311 in cash stuffed into his two front pockets. A cell phone located on the center console of the car had text messages, including "How much an eighth" and a response of "Fifty".

The Honorable Hurl Johnson presided over the trial and scheduled a sentencing hearing for November 20, 2008 in Department 4 of the Stanislaus Superior Court. Carvalho faces a maximum time of four years and eight months in state prison.