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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 27, 2009
Re: Raul Castillo – Felon who possessed
ammunition sent to state prison for 4 years

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Raul Castillo, age 22, of Modesto, was convicted of being a felon in possession of ammunition and having a prior felony conviction that falls under California's "Three Strikes" law. Deputy District Attorney Thomas M. Brennan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on June 21, 2008, when Modesto police officers responded to a vehicle burglary in progress call. Upon arrival, the officers detained Castillo who was seen walking away from a burglarized vehicle. A search of Castillo revealed 4 live shotgun rounds in his pocket.

Castillo had previously been convicted on August 14, 2007 of Felony Participation in a Criminal Street Gang, a "strike" under California's Three Strikes law.

Upon entry of the guilty plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Castillo to two years in prison for being a felon in possession of ammunition which was doubled after Castillo admitted he had suffered a prior "strike" conviction for a total of 4 years state prison.

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