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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 22, 2009
Re: Juan Chavez Ceja – 12 Years Prison
For Attempted Murder and Assault
With a Deadly Weapon

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Chavez Ceja, age 25, of Modesto, pled guilty to the felony charges of Attempted Murder and Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He also admitted having caused great bodily injury during the commission of the offenses. Deputy District Attorney Nathan Baker prosecuted the case for the People.

On July 13, 2006 in the city of Modesto, Ceja met the victim (his former girlfriend and cohabitor) at her place of work and asked her for a ride home. She reluctantly agreed. During the car ride, Ceja pleaded with the victim to rekindle their relationship. She refused. He began hitting the dashboard and threatening to kill himself. The victim pulled over and told Ceja to get out of the car. When he refused, she got out of the car and began to call 911. Ceja chased after her and took her phone away. Ceja took a box cutter out of his pocket, held it to his own throat and threatened to kill himself. He then grabbed the victim, placed her in a headlock, and cut her cheek and neck area several times. As he was assaulting the victim, Ceja told her, "If I can't have you, then I'll just kill you." The victim ran to a bystander and was assisted by other neighbors. The defendant ran into a nearby park where he was apprehended by Modesto Police officers. The victim needed extensive suturing to close her wounds.

Upon entry of the guilty plea, the Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced the defendant to 12 years in state prison.

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