



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 2, 2009
Re: Mario Antonio Ferralis
Conviction for Drunk Driving
And Resisting Arrest

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mario Antonio Ferralis, age 53, of Modesto, was convicted on October 29, 2009 following a jury trial of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Resisting Arrest. The court also found true that Ferralis had suffered two prior DUI convictions. Deputy District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On February 2, 2009, the Modesto Police Department conducted a DUI checkpoint on McHenry Ave. At approximately 10:00 p.m., Ferralis drove his vehicle through the checkpoint. MPD Officer D. Letsinger was working a position at the checkpoint to conduct initial screening for possible DUIs. Ferralis passed Letsinger and failed to stop until Letsinger yelled at him to stop. After Ferralis stopped his vehicle, Letsinger contacted Ferralis who was agitated and angry because he was stopped. Ferralis had trouble finding his driver's license so he was directed to pull his vehicle into a secondary screening area. During his contact with Ferralis, Letsinger smelled an odor of alcohol on Ferralis's breath. Letsinger also conducted a cursory sobriety test and suspected that Ferralis may have alcohol in his system. Ferralis denied drinking any alcohol. When Letsinger asked Ferralis to get out of his vehicle, he observed a knife sheath on Ferralis's belt. After Ferralis made some furtive movements towards his waist line, Officer Letsinger ordered Ferralis to stop and turn around in order to be detained for safety purposes. Ferralis refused and then a struggle ensued when Letsinger tried to gain physical control of Ferralis. During the struggle, Ferralis pushed Letsinger to the ground and was then subdued by Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputy Barber who was assisting at the checkpoint. After Ferralis was taken into custody, a blood draw was conducted. The blood sample was sent to the California DOJ where it was determined to have a blood alcohol level of .07.

Upon entry of the guilty verdict, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova placed Ferralis on 3 years informal probation, ordered him to participate in alcohol and anger management counseling, and sentenced him to 150 days in the county jail.

###