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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 14, 2009

Re: People v. Taft Tinnin

Drug dealer sentenced to 10 years, 4 months in state prison

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced that Taft Kip Tinnin, 38, of Modesto, was convicted of two counts of Possession of Cocaine Base for Sale, and one count of Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale. Tinnin also admitted previously being convicted of selling controlled substances and having served four prior prison commitments.

On October 17, 2006, members of the Modesto Police Department's Narcotics Enforcement Team served a search warrant at the home of Taft Tinnin at 1209 Bleu Chapelle Court. In the home, officers found 14 grams of methamphetamine. Tinnin was not at home and was not located until 2007.

On January 29, 2007, Tinnin was involved in a hit and run traffic collision on the 1700 block of Carlton Ave. Tinnin was contacted by Modesto Police officers who were investigating the collision. Officers began searching Tinnin and found him to be in possession of 2.33 grams of cocaine base. Tinnin was arrested. Upon posting bail, Tinnin failed to appear at his court hearing.

On June 12, 2007, Modesto Police officers were conducting probation searches in the area of Faustina Ave. Officers contacted Tinnin who agreed to be searched. During the search, officers found Tinnin to be in possession of .25 grams and .24 grams of cocaine base. Officers also found over five-hundred dollars in Tinnin's pocket. He was arrested. Upon posting bail, he failed

to appear at his court hearing and was found in Oakland in the summer of 2008. He has remained in custody since.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Tinnin to ten years and four months in state prison.

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