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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 10, 2021
Re: Mason Robert Salazar and Salvador
Daniel Patron
Armed robbery convictions and prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Salvador Daniel Patron, age 19, and Mason Robert Salazar, age 19, have been convicted of robbery and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Monroe Tyler prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 24, 2020, Salazar drove Patron and two other individuals to an AM/PM in Ceres in order to rob the clerk and any other customers they would find inside the store. Patron entered wearing a mask with another co-defendant, Aaron Araujo, and pointed a firearm at the cashier ordering him to open the register and threatening to kill him. Patron and Araujo also demanded money from three other customers who were present, one of whom was pregnant. Salazar stayed outside as the getaway driver and drove the robbers away from the store.

Days later, Salazar attempted to steal a car but was chased into a backyard and caught by police. Officers saw one of the robbery victim's wallets nearby. Further investigation revealed a "celebration video" in which Patron and Salazar were seen with cash and stolen items. A second video, taken before the robbery, showed the firearm that was used in the crime.

On February 3, 2021, Salazar pled to two counts of robbery and admitted a prior juvenile adjudication for robbery which counted as a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Judge Ricardo Cordova then sentenced Salazar to serve nine years in state prison.

Patron, who has no prior criminal history, pled to four counts of robbery, one for each victim in the AM/PM, and admitted a gun enhancement for each count. Pursuant to his plea agreement, Judge Cordova sentenced Patron to serve nine years and four months in state prison.

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Salazar now has three prior “strike” convictions under California’s “Three Strikes” law while Patron has four. Should they be convicted of another specified felony offense following release from prison, they are subject to receiving a sentence of 25 years to life.

Co-defendant Aaron Araujo was also charged with four counts of robbery in this case. He is currently out on bail pending further court appearances.

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