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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 24, 2003

Re: **Cardenas, Morones convictions**

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Luis Antonio Cardenas, age 21 and Shawn Michael Morones, age 24, both of Tracy were convicted of a felonious assault on Officer Eric Beffa of the Modesto Police Department during a preliminary hearing today. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Cardenas is facing a maximum of 365 days in jail and Morones is facing a maximum of 180 days in jail when they appear for sentencing on September 11th. Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on April 26, 2003 at the four-story 11th Street parking garage in Modesto. Officers Beffa and David Mullins went to the top of the garage after they heard a female screaming. Upon reaching the top floor, Officer Beffa was first struck in the face by Cardenas and then attacked by 2 others, including Morones. Officer Beffa testified at a previous hearing that he was thrown to the ground and hit numerous times in the head and body. The third individual involved in the attack on Officer Beffa, Ali Safdari, is pending trial on August 25th.

A third individual, Joseph Patrick Manson, 22, of Tracy had been charged with attempted murder of Officer Mullins arising out of the same incident. In dismissing the charge today for insufficient evidence, Houston told the court that based on the

evidence, he did not believe the case against Manson could be proved beyond a reasonable doubt at jury trial.

Sentencing for Cardenas and Morones is currently set for September 11th, 2003 in Department 2 of the Superior Court.

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