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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 19, 2009
Re: Sandoval - 16-year-old robber sent to
Prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Sandoval, age 16, of Modesto, was convicted of robbing a young female clerk at the Video King in Modesto on January 22, 2009 Deputy District Attorney Tom Brennan filed the case in adult court based on the violent nature of the crime and prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 22, 2009, at approximately 10 pm, Sandoval entered the Video King wearing a black hoodie and black gloves. Sandoval asked the young female clerk if she worked alone. When the clerk responded yes, Sandoval walked behind the counter and demanded money from the cash register. When the victim was not able to open one of two drawers, Sandoval punched her in the face with his closed fist. Sandoval continually made threats to harm the victim as she struggled with the cash drawer. After grabbing money from one cash drawer, Sandoval exited Video King after delivering a final threat to the victim should she call the police. As Sandoval exited, the victim called the police. Two blocks away, Sandoval was taken into custody by Modesto Police Officers after a violent struggle. The victim was visibly shaking and crying when the police first contacted her.

The victim, who was facing Sandoval for the first time since the violent robbery, gave an emotional impact statement. The victim described how she is afraid to work alone and how she cringes every time someone wearing a "hoodie" enters the store. The victim ordered Sandoval to look her in the eye repeatedly. After multiple demands, Sandoval looked up at the victim and said "sorry."

Following the impact statement, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Sandoval to 3 years in state prison.

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