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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 20, 2010
Re: Jason Draper - Robbery Conviction
Based on DNA

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jason Draper, age 29, of Modesto, was convicted of robbery after entering a "no contest" plea on January 13, 2010. Deputy District Attorney Nathan Baker prosecuted the case. Judge Whiteside sentenced the defendant to the statutorily authorized 1-year term in state prison to run consecutive to a prison term the defendant is currently serving for felony assault.

The case arose out of events that occurred on November 24, 2006 in the city of Modesto. Draper entered the Life Uniform store on Sisk Road, he sprayed mace in the female clerk's face, grabbed the money in the cash register and took the clerk's car keys. Draper fled the scene in the clerk's car. Her abandoned vehicle was recovered later that day with the keys still in the ignition.

The case went unsolved until a DNA match in November 2008. Detectives swabbed the key fob from the recovered keys and submitted the evidence to the Department of Justice. After Draper was convicted of felony assault in 2007, his sentence included submitting a mandatory DNA sample. Draper's DNA sample was entered into the state Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). A match was soon made with the DNA profile from the victim's key fob. With that information, detectives produced a photo lineup and the victim identified Draper as the robbery suspect.

Deputy District Attorney Nate Baker was pleased with the results of this new investigative tool. "I have seen a few cases now that have been solved with cold-case DNA hits," Baker said, "It is outstanding when we can serve justice on cases that would otherwise go unresolved."

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