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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 30, 2014
Re: Murder; conviction

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mark Burgess, age 26, of Merced, was convicted on May 23, 2014 of first degree murder. Burgess also admitted to having personally used a firearm. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 4, 2009, during an attempted robbery, Burgess shot and killed Harinder Sanghera, the clerk at the Gas and Shop store on Ninth Street in Modesto. Burgess was able to escape arrest at the time. In October 2011, after being stopped by an officer of the Merced Police Department, Burgess confessed to the murder and attempted robbery.

Upon entry of the guilty plea, Judge Dawna Reeves scheduled a sentencing hearing for July 30, 2014. Burgess is facing a sentence of 28 years to life in state prison. A co-responsible, Ernesto Morales, age 25, previously pled guilty to second degree murder for participating in the robbery which resulted in the death of the victim.

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