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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 30, 2015
Re: People v. Frank Lee Cromer &
Claude Stanley Smith

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Modesto, California — Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that drug dealing and gun possession will send two men to state prison. Frank Lee Cromer, age 52, of Turlock, was convicted on April 24th of two felony counts of possession of a controlled substance for sale, one count of felon in possession of a firearm, and one count of possession of a short-barreled shotgun. Mr. Cromer also admitted a weapons enhancement and a prior conviction for possession of a controlled substance for sale. Co-defendant Claude Stanley Smith, age 66, of Turlock, was convicted of one count of possession of a controlled substance for sales and one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

Turlock Police Department Sergeant Steven Crawford, Detective David Hall, and Detective Michael Parmley investigated the case. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Darnell prosecuted the case on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

On May 14, 2014, officers from the Turlock Police Department executed a search warrant at 501 Wolfe Avenue. Officers located a safe inside the house that contained a half-pound of methamphetamine, a loaded revolver and a substantial amount of cash. Both defendants were in possession of a key to the safe. Officers also located a trunk with a substantial amount of cash. In addition, officers located a loaded revolver and a short-barreled shotgun under the cushions of a couch.

On October 22, 2014, officers from the Turlock Department conducted a search of Cromer and found a digital scale and some keys. Officers then searched a storage shed and located another safe and one of Cromer's keys opened it. They found 18 baggies of methamphetamine; each baggie weighed approximately one ounce.

As officers weighed the methamphetamine, Cromer stated in a joking manner, "500 grams." He then added, "But I'm not admitting to anything."

Judge Dawna Reeves sentenced Cromer ten years in state prison. Smith will be sentenced on June 10, 2015. He is expected to receive a sentence of two years in state prison.

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