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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 29th, 2016
Re: Austin & Jones Robbery convictions

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Austin, age 24, and Amonte Jones, age 23, both of Modesto, were convicted January 28th, 2016 of armed residential robbery, carjacking, being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and vehicle pursuit recklessly endangering others. Deputy District Attorney Tony Colacito prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 18th, 2013 Austin and Jones robbed a 53-year-old woman as she was taking groceries from her car into her house. After beating her and shoving her into a closet, they ransacked the home and stole a television, cash and other various items including the victim's van.

Physical evidence linked both Austin and Jones directly to the crime scene. Modesto Police detectives determined that Austin was on parole for a previous robbery conviction. The next day, both defendants were seen in a car near the area where the stolen van was abandoned. When officers attempted to stop them, Austin, the driver, and Jones, the passenger, led police on a high speed chase that ended in a traffic collision.

Defendants were convicted after a two and a half week jury trial in the Stanislaus County Superior Court before Judge Dawna Reeves. Sentencing is currently set for March 18th, 2016. The defendants face potential state prison sentences of up to 37 years based upon the charges including additional time for being previously convicted of violent crimes.

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