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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 10/10/16
Re: Anthony Noriega sentence to prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Anthony Noriega, age 38, of Ceres, after being convicted of two counts of robbery and one count of sexual battery, was sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 14, 2015, Noriega went into the Payless Shoe Source in Ceres while employees were closing the store for the day. Noriega was able to lock the front door with an employee's key and demanded money from the register. Two customers leaving the store saw what was happening and called 911. Noriega was given money along with a pair of boots and socks that he insisted be placed upon his feet. One of the store clerks was able to activate a silent alarm. When law enforcement arrived, both clerks tried to calm Noriega down and told him to exit through the back door. Both clerks then ran to the safety of law enforcement officers waiting outside. Noriega was apprehended as he ran out the back door.

On September 30, 2016, Noriega pleaded no contest to the charges and admitted having been previously convicted of robbery in 1997. Judge Shawn Bessey then sentenced Noriega to eight years in state prison. Noriega will have to serve at least 85% of his prison term in actual custody and register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

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