



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
David P. Harris

Chief Deputies
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira
Stephen R. Robinson
Jeffrey M. Laugero

Bureau of Investigation
Acting Chief Froilan Mariscal
Lt. David Hutchinson

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 11, 2019
Re: Salvador Esparza Jr.
Felony convictions & prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Salvador Esparza Jr., age 25, of Modesto, was convicted of assault with a firearm in two separate Stanislaus County incidents and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Barry Shapiro prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On June 2, 2017, Esparza was being kicked out of a house on Ustick Road in Modesto. In retaliation for being evicted before leaving the scene, he fired multiple shots from a semi-automatic handgun at the occupied home.

On June 22, 2017, Esparza was eating at a taco truck on Crows Landing road when he was approached by several unidentified individuals. Esparza went to his vehicle, retrieved a handgun, and fired several rounds with at least one bullet hitting the taco truck. The employee inside the truck was not hurt.

Esparza was arrested on July 5, 2017 and charged with the crimes of assault with a firearm, shooting at an inhabited dwelling or vehicle, and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

On May 17, 2019, Esparza pled no contest before Judge Shawn Bessey to two counts of assault with a firearm and admitted an enhancement for personally using a gun. He also admitted having a prior "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law which was used to double his sentence. Last week, on June 7th, Judge Bessey sentenced Esparza to serve fifteen years and four months in state prison.

Esparza's convictions are considered "violent" felonies under California law, meaning he will have to serve at least 85% of his sentence in actual prison custody.

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Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



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