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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 18, 2019
Re: Joshua Alexander Stewart
Robbery/Murder conviction

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joshua Alexander Stewart, age 29, of Modesto, was convicted of first-degree murder with use of a gun and attempted robbery. Deputy District Attorney Blythe Harris prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On April 3, 2014, at approximately 11:13 a.m., Modesto Police officers responded to a "shots fired" call in the 1300 block of Leonard Avenue near Modesto College. The victim, Kirk Lund, age 51, was found lying in the street with multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

Investigators located several bullet casings and evidence that showed the victim, a handyman, had been working in that area. Witnesses described a subject fleeing the scene on a bicycle. Stewart was located nearby, but ran from police when approached. As he ran, Stewart threw a handgun onto a nearby roof. Subsequent testing connected it to the bullet casings found at the scene. Police believe that Stewart shot Lund during an attempted robbery.

Stewart pled guilty to premeditated murder with a gun use as well as attempted robbery. During the taking of his plea, Stewart apologized to the victim's family and blamed the crime on his drug use and negative peer associations. He now faces a prison term of 31 years-to-life at a sentencing hearing currently set for October 29th in Department 5.

Family members of the victim attended court and expressed gratitude that the defendant was now convicted of murdering their loved one and now facing life in prison.

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