



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 22, 2022
Re: Daniel Barajas Martinez
Major Narcotics Jury Trial Conviction

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Daniel Barajas Martinez, age 37, of Modesto has been convicted of multiple felonies related to the sales of methamphetamine as well as enhancements for committing those crimes while being released on bail. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On September 25, 2020, officers of the Stanislaus County Probation Department looking for Martinez found him leaving a Modesto motel room. When told that officers were going to search him pursuant to the terms of his probation from a previous case, Martinez replied, "You're about to get a promotion." In the backpack, officers located nearly one pound of crystal methamphetamine, a working digital scale, over \$1,000 in cash and several small plastic baggies often used for narcotics sales and distribution. A photo of the drugs and cash taken at the time of that arrest and introduced into evidence during the trial is included with this press release.

At the time of his arrest, Martinez was out on bail for two additional drug sales-related cases. One occurred on June 9, 2020 when he was stopped by Ceres police officers for a traffic violation. During a search of his backpack, officers located nine grams of crystal methamphetamine and over \$12,500 in cash. After being released on "zero bail" for that case, Martinez was arrested again on August 14, 2020 when Modesto Police officers conducting a search of his residence found nearly 120 grams of crystal methamphetamine, multiple working digital scales, narcotics packaging and \$12,000 in cash.

All three incidents were consolidated into one criminal case that went to jury trial on February 14, 2022 before Judge Dawna Reeves. Evidence presented included testimony from peace officers from the Ceres and Modesto Police Departments, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office, the Probation Department, as well as expert testimony from Modesto Police Department Major Crimes Investigator Jacob Mertz who identified Martinez as a major local distributor of crystal methamphetamine in Stanislaus County.

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On February 23, 2022, the jury returned verdicts of guilty on all counts charged. In a subsequent court trial, Judge Reeves found that the Martinez had been previously convicted of an Assault with a Deadly Weapon in 2005, a “strike” under California’s Three Strikes law. Reeves also found true the enhancements that Martinez committed these crimes while out on bail in another case.

Martinez faces a maximum potential prison term of 16 years and eight months at sentencing, which is currently set for April 1, 2022.

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