



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 1, 2022
Re: James Seth Brackett
Convicted Drug Dealer Sentenced to “Local Prison”

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Seth Brackett, age 55, of Modesto was convicted on June 27, 2022 of felony drug charges and subsequently sentenced to six years and eight months in “local prison”. Deputy District Attorney Kirk Brennan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On January 8, 2021, Brackett was a passenger in a car stopped by Modesto police officers for expired registration. As the car came to a halt, Brackett opened the rear passenger door and dropped a bag containing illegal drugs on the ground near the rear passenger wheel. Officers searched the bag and found three baggies containing over 59 grams of heroin, one baggie containing over one gram of methamphetamine and one baggie containing over one gram of fentanyl. Brackett was also found to be in possession of over \$1,100 cash.

On July 14, 2021, Modesto police attempted to stop Brackett for running a stop sign. He tried to evade police at speeds of up to 50 mph through a residential neighborhood. When Brackett reached his home, he got out of the vehicle, ignored police orders to return to the car, ran to the front door, physically resisted being arrested by the officer and entered the house. Brackett escaped from the property before additional officers arrived to secure the scene. Inside the car they found over 78 grams of fentanyl, over 3 grams of methamphetamine, some opiate pills, a large number of empty baggies commonly used to package and sell drugs and almost \$4,000 in cash in various denominations.

Brackett was charged in each incident and the two cases were later consolidated into one. On the day before trial, Brackett entered a plea of guilty to transportation of heroin for purpose of sale, possession of heroin for purpose of sale, transportation of fentanyl for purpose of sale, possession of fentanyl for purpose of sale, transportation of methamphetamine for purpose of sale, possession of methamphetamine for purpose of sale and resisting a police officer from performing a duty, all felonies.

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Upon entry of Brackett's plea, Judge Linda McFadden sentenced him to serve six years and eight months in prison, but that must be served in the county jail as a result of "realignment" (AB109) which was passed by the legislature in 2011. Three years will be served in custody and three years, eight months will be on "mandatory supervision" by local probation officers.

Brackett has been in and out of prison and jail numerous times over the last thirty years for a variety of felony and misdemeanor criminal offenses and served several previous terms in state prison.

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