

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN TO RECEIVE 4 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR FIREARM AND DRUGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deputy District Attorney

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on September 14, 2016, Salinas resident Joseph Cienega, age 30, entered pleas of no contest to possessing a firearm as a felon and possession of a controlled substance with a firearm. Cienega also admitted a prior strike conviction.

On January 28, 2016, a Salinas Police Officer Alberto Duran observed Cienega driving. The officer conducted a traffic stop because Cienega was not wearing a seatbelt. Cienega was acting nervous, so the officer conducted a pat search. The officer found a loaded firearm concealed in Cienega's waistband. Because of his prior felony conviction, Cienega is prohibited from possessing firearms. Cienega was arrested and transported to the Monterey County Jail. During a jail search 5.5 grams of heroin was located in Cienega's shorts.

Cienega will receive a sentence of 4 years in state prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced on October 12, 2016 before Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu.