

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF TWO COUNTS OF PETTY THEFT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that a jury found Gustavo Santoyo Gonzalez, age 19, guilty of two counts of petty theft.

On the night of August 24, 2015, Gonzalez broke into the administration building at Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey, California by climbing through an unlocked office window. Gonzalez testified at trial that when he entered the building, his intent was simply to use the restroom and not to commit a theft. However, on cross examination, Gonzalez admitted that he never actually used the restroom once he was inside. Gonzalez testified that as the alarms sounded, he stole a number of items, including two vehicle keys, an embroidered Laguna Seca Raceway shirt, an embroidered Laguna Seca Raceway vest, a tote bag, sunglasses, a Circuit of the Americas belt buckle, and a water bottle.

Evidence at trial revealed that the following morning Gonzalez also stole several items from the truck of a raceway employee. Gonzalez was found later that day by raceway employees who noticed his suspicious behavior and contacted the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. All stolen items were returned to the owners.

Gonzalez was charged with one count of second-degree commercial burglary, two counts of petty theft, and one count of providing false information to a police officer. The jury hung 11-1 in favor of guilty on the charge of second-degree commercial burglary, resulting in a mistrial. The jury found the defendant guilty on two counts of petty theft and not guilty on the count of providing false information to a police officer.

Judge Efren Iglesia will sentence the defendant on February 3, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Department 9.