

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

WATSONVILLE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF EVADING POLICE, FAILURE TO APPEAR, AND RESISTING ARREST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced on today's date that Jaime Ayala, age 30, was found guilty by a jury of two counts of felony evading a peace officer, two counts of failure to appear while on bail, and resisting arrest. Ayala admitted a prior strike conviction for residential burglary and two prior prison terms. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu.

On November 22, 2015, deputies from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office observed Ayala speeding on Imjin Parkway. The deputy tried to initiate a traffic stop. Ayala sped up, crossed over the center median, and ran a red light. Ayala reached speeds of 100 mph on Imjin Parkway. Ayala crashed his vehicle at the onramp to Southbound Highway 1. However, the pursuit continued onto Highway 1, reaching speeds of 120 mph. Several deputies continued the pursuit through a residential neighborhood in Seaside, where the defendant struck two parked cars. The deputies were eventually able to end the pursuit using a Pursuit Intervention Technique, in which, at slow speed, the suspect vehicle is forced to abruptly turn sideways because the pursuit vehicle maneuvers into contact with one side of the rear of the suspect vehicle. Ayala crashed into a parked car and came to a rest.

Ayala refused to comply with the deputies' commands and crawled out a broken back window of his vehicle. As Ayala attempted to run away, deputies deployed a taser and a canine to apprehend him. During the pendency of the case, Ayala posted bail twice, failing to appear once for a hearing and another time for the jury trial.

Ayala is scheduled to be sentenced on March 3, 2017. He faces a maximum of 13 years and 8 months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The case was investigated by Deputies Johnathon Maiorino, Shaun Moran, and Brandon Smith of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.