

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Justin Anthony Perez, age 31, of Salinas, was sentenced by Monterey Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison to two years in state prison for assault with a deadly weapon. The conviction is a “strike” offense under the Three Strikes law.

On December 23, 2016, Perez, angry over child custody issues, confronted his former girlfriend while she was at work in a Salinas retail store. In the presence of several store employees and shoppers, Perez began to strike Jane Doe on her head and held a knife to her throat while telling her she was going to die. When officers arrived on scene, they drew their firearms and ordered Perez to drop the knife. Perez instead forced Doe into a fitting room and continued the violent assault. As officers advanced towards the fitting room, Perez turned to face them, wrapped his arm around Doe’s neck, and forced her to stand in front of him, using her body as a shield. Officers again ordered Perez to drop the knife but he refused. Fearful for Doe’s safety, officers deployed their Tasers and Perez was taken into custody.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Officer Zachary Dunagan of the Violence Suppression Unit.