

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR STALKING EX-GIRLFRIEND

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jose Javier Cruz, age 36 of Salinas, was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to stalking his ex-girlfriend in violation of a domestic violence restraining order.

On December 22, 2016, the victim obtained a domestic violence restraining order against Cruz, her ex-boyfriend, for threatening to harm her. In January and February 2017, Cruz repeatedly followed the victim, sent her harassing text messages and e-mails from anonymous accounts, showed up unannounced inside her home, let himself into her vehicle, and stole her belongings. Cruz also recruited other people to contact the victim and to urge her to reconcile with him.

Cruz pleaded guilty to one felony count of stalking and three misdemeanor counts of violating a protective order.

Cruz was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta. The cases were investigated by multiple officers from Salinas Police Department.