

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **CASTROVILLE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ASSAULT AND WITNESS DISSUASION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NORTENO CRIMINAL STREET GANG**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 2, 2017**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on May 1, 2017, a jury found 20-year-old Antonio Martinez, an active participant in the Norteno Criminal Street Gang, guilty of witness dissuasion, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On December 15, 2016, a 15-year-old girl was walking to the Castroville Library to finish a school project when she witnessed an exchange between two rival gang members. She witnessed the defendant remove a gun from his waistband, point it at the rival, and yell "Norte."

The defendant then approached her while pointing the gun at her, and yelled "Northside." The defendant then fled. The victim's friends called 911, but the victim was so traumatized she was unable to speak to the dispatcher. The victim made her way to a fire station where the police responded. The victim was able to give an extremely detailed description of the defendant.

Later on the same evening two deputies located the defendant in the same vicinity. The defendant failed to obey commands and struggled with the deputies; the firearm he had pointed at the rival gang members and the 15-year-old victim fell to the ground during the struggle. The firearm was found to be loaded and functioning. The defendant was previously convicted of a felony and therefore was not allowed by law to possess any firearms.

The case was investigated the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, as well as District Attorney Investigator Jorge Gutierrez. The defendant will be sentenced on July 20, 2017 by Judge Carrie Panetta.