

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

JURY RETURNS GUILTY VERDICTS IN CASE AGAINST JOSE CASTANEDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 24, 2017

**CONTACT: Elaine McCleaf, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5246**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that after two days of deliberations, a jury of seven women and five men found former Salinas City Councilman Castaneda guilty of felony charges of kidnapping, domestic violence and stalking but could not reach a unanimous verdict on the fourth count of misdemeanor sexual battery.

The panel deliberated two days after hearing testimony from the victim, a prior girlfriend of the defendant, who described how he approached her in front of her home after midnight on September 5, 2015 and asked to talk to her. When the victim refused to talk to him, he grabbed her forearms and dragged her down the driveway and pushed and locked her into a van owned by his mother. The victim further stated he drove the van approximately a half-mile away from her home where he then hit her on the head, arms and legs. He then demanded the victim's phone and passwords to her social media accounts. When the victim refused, he pulled her into the back seat and continued to berate and strike her. When the victim's phone battery died, Castaneda released the victim and she walked the half-mile to her home barefoot.

The victim did not report to police until Castaneda returned to her home after midnight on September 7, 2015 and demanded to talk to her while he banged on her front door and her brother's bedroom window.

The victim with the support of friends reported to the Salinas Police department later on September 7, 2015. Castaneda surrendered to SPD days later and then posted a \$100,000 bail bond.

Castaneda was remanded to custody by Judge Carrie Panetta after the reading of the verdicts. Sentencing is set for June 22, 2017 where Castaneda faces up to nine years and eight months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department and DA Investigator Martin Sanchez.