

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR VIOLATING PROBATION**

---

May 25, 2017

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Robin Duffy, Deputy District Attorney  
(831) 755-5412**

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Gerardo Puga, age 45, was sentenced by Judge Robert Burlison to sixteen months in prison for violating the terms and conditions of his probation.

On August 16, 2014, at approximately 1:43 a.m., Puga and an accomplice, identified as Carlos Amezcua, drove separately to Industrial Road and South Sanborn Road in Salinas. Puga drove his distinctive-looking truck, and Amezcua drove a vehicle that belonged to his ex-girlfriend Jane Doe. Doe, after many instances of domestic violence, had ended her relationship with Amezcua two days prior and asked him to return her car. Amezcua refused. Instead, Amezcua drove to the outskirts of Salinas in the middle of the night, doused Doe's vehicle with an accelerant, and watched as Puga set the car ablaze. The entire interior of Doe's car, as well as part of the roof and windshield, were destroyed by the fire.

Unbeknownst to Puga and Amezcua, a witness watched this unfold and called 911. Further, security cameras in the area captured Puga's truck on surveillance. Police arrested Puga and Amezcua shortly thereafter. Amezcua was ultimately sentenced to twelve years in prison for felony arson, kidnapping, and domestic violence.

On October 1, 2015, Puga was sentenced to felony probation. Puga first violated probation by suffering a DUI conviction in 2016. Puga's second violation of probation occurred on April 8, 2016, when Puga failed to report as required.

Judge Burlison sentenced Puga to sixteen months in state prison.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Detective Byron Gansen.