

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN WITH A PRIOR SEX CRIME CONVICTION PLEADS GUILTY TO ANNOYING A CHILD**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Jorge Morales Pineda, age 31, pled guilty to three felony counts of annoying or molesting a child. He also admitted a prior strike conviction for committing forcible child molestation in 2011.

On November 3, 2016, Officer Anthony Garcia from the Salinas Police Department was dispatched to an apartment complex in Salinas, California, where he met with a 14 year old child, Jane Doe. Jane Doe told Officer Garcia that she had been followed home three days in a row when she was walking home after school.

Jane Doe stated that she was walking from the bus stop to her home after school on October 31, 2016, when a male in a white vehicle asked her for her name and asked her to come over to him. Jane Doe nodded her head left and right, indicating “no,” and kept walking. Jane Doe identified Pineda as the male in the vehicle in a photographic line-up. The next day, on November 1, 2016, Jane Doe was again walking to her home after school when she observed Pineda in the same vehicle as the day before, parked behind a dumpster, as if the vehicle was trying to hide. Pineda drove the vehicle alongside Jane Doe as she was walking. Pineda once again asked Jane Doe for her name and offered to give Jane Doe \$10 if she told him her name. Pineda also asked Jane Doe to “come over here.” Jane Doe again nodded her head, indicating “no.” The third day, on November 2, 2016, Jane Doe again observed Pineda in the same vehicle as she was walking home after school. Pineda again asked Jane Doe for her name and asked her to come over to him. Officer Garcia obtained surveillance videos from Jane Doe’s apartment complex as well as Pineda’s GPS records which both confirmed that Pineda was at Jane Doe’s apartment complex at the time she reported being followed.

Pineda will be sentenced by Judge Julie R. Culver on September 7, 2017 to thirteen years and four months to be served in state prison.

The case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Officers Anthony Garcia, Daniel Garcia, and Mario Reyes.