

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY AND EVADING POLICE

August 21, 2017

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Mark Trinidad, age 44, was sentenced to two years in prison after entering pleas of no contest to possession of stolen property and evading police officers.

On August 27, 2014, deputies responded to a reported residential burglary in unincorporated Monterey County. The victim reported that Trinidad drove onto his property, entered his home, and stole a pellet rifle. The missing pellet rifle was later found in Trinidad's home.

On August 10, 2016, a CHP officer attempted to stop a motorcycle for speeding on Highway 101. The driver, later identified as Trinidad, refused to yield and instead accelerated. Officers initiated a vehicle pursuit, during which Trinidad drove upwards of 75mph in a 50-mph zone. Trinidad also drove into oncoming traffic, which caused drivers to pull to the shoulder to avoid him. At one point, Trinidad accelerated so quickly that his passenger, later identified as his girlfriend, fell off the back of the motorcycle. The officer ended the pursuit to check on Trinidad's girlfriend. Trinidad ignored the officer's commands to stop, yelled at his girlfriend to get back on the bike, and then took off when she ignored him and remained on the ground.

On August 15, 2017, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Trinidad to two years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

These cases were investigated by Monterey County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Sullivan and California Highway Patrol Officer K. Clissold.

###