

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR EVADING A PEACE OFFICER**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 24, 2017**

**CONTACT: Deputy District Attorney Chris Knight  
(831) 755-5076**

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that the Honorable Pamela L. Butler sentenced Alex Espinoza, Age 24, of Salinas, to thirty-two months in state prison for one felony count of evading a peace officer.

Mr. Espinoza pled no contest based on the following facts. On December 7, 2016, at about 12:06 AM, California Highway Patrol began pursuing the Honda Accord driven by him. Gilroy police had previously attempted to stop the Accord because it displayed fraudulent license plates. Mr. Espinoza drove the Accord at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour on Highway 101. After exiting Highway 101, Mr. Espinoza exited the Accord and fled on foot. Earlier, he had thrown his wallet with his California driver's license out the window of the car, which led to his identification.

California's Three Strikes law doubled his sentence because he previously suffered a strike conviction for Criminal Street Gang activity. Despite the defendant's prior strike conviction, pursuant to the recent passage of Proposition 57, Espinoza will be eligible for parole consideration in 16 months.

The Gilroy Police Department, the Salinas Police Department, and the Monterey Office of the California Highway Patrol conducted the pursuit and investigation.