

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SAN JOSE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF A LOADED FIREARM AND A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

September 27, 2017

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on September 26, San Jose resident Joshua Soto, age 27, was sentenced by Judge Robert A. Burlison to two years in prison after entering a no content plea to being in possession of a loaded firearm and a controlled substance. Soto is currently serving a prison commitment as a result of subsequent felony convictions arising out of Santa Clara County. This case will be served concurrently to the Santa Clara sentence.

On December 4, 2016, at approximately 3:54am, Salinas police responded to a reported robbery. The victims told police that they had hired two women as escorts. In the midst of the amorous encounter, the women reportedly stole a wallet belonging to one of the men. When confronted, the women fled. The victims chased the women to a nearby vehicle. The getaway driver, later identified as Soto, brandished a firearm at the victims and told them to back off. Salinas police located Soto's vehicle shortly thereafter. Soto, a member of the Norteno criminal street gang, and his female associates were detained without incident. A search revealed one of the women to be in possession of the victim's stolen cash. Soto was found to have a concealed, loaded gun in his waistband and a bindle of heroin in his pocket.

This case was investigated by retired Salinas Police Officer Timothy Iorio.

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