

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SOLEDAD MAN ADMITS TO RESISTING OFFICER BY VIOLENCE PRIOR TO OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 26, 2017:**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on October 25, Walter Ancheta, age 38, pled guilty to deter or prevent an executive officer by force or threat. Judge Andrew G. Liu will sentence Ancheta to 2 years 8 months in state prison on November 17, 2017 at 8:45 a.m. Ancheta will be sentenced pursuant to California's Three Strikes Law due a prior conviction for assault with a deadly weapon with an enhancement for criminal street gang activity.

On October 11, 2016, at about 11:30 PM, Soledad Police Department Officer Taylor Rivas noticed Ancheta's SUV roll through a stop sign on Granada Street in Soledad. Officer Rivas conducted a traffic stop on the SUV, only to have Ancheta abruptly get out of his vehicle and begin to quickly walk away.

Officer Rivas, 5'6" and 170 pounds, ordered Ancheta, 5'11" and 260 pounds to get back into his vehicle. Ancheta ignored the officer and began to run away towards a residence. Officer Rivas chased Ancheta through the residence's backyard. In the darkness of the backyard, Officer Rivas lost sight of Ancheta. Officer Rivas was not equipped with a taser on this occasion.

Hearing a noise near the front of the residence, Officer Rivas returned to that location. He saw Ancheta hop a fence and begin to go into another yard. When Officer Rivas caught up to Ancheta, Ancheta shoved him aside and continued running back to his vehicle.

Officer Rivas caught up to Ancheta once more and attempted to grab him. Ancheta threw Officer Rivas to the ground, causing him to injure his ankle and hit a parked van. The officer saw Ancheta run towards his vehicle and yell for his 10-year-old daughter to get back into Ancheta's vehicle. The child screamed for her father to stop running. Officer Rivas was previously unaware a child had been in or near the car during the event.

Ancheta got into the driver's seat of the vehicle while Officer Rivas took up a position near the hood of the vehicle on the driver's side. Officer Rivas drew his firearm and ordered Ancheta to show the Officer his hands. The officer saw Ancheta begin to move his hand near the center console and heard the vehicle being put in gear. The officer discharged his firearm 3 times, striking Ancheta once through the cheek. The officer was able to get Ancheta out of the car and, with the help of a responding officer, into custody. The resident of the home which Ancheta had been chased through called the police the following morning to report locating in his backyard multiple, individually packaged bindles containing methamphetamine. An ounce of marijuana was also found in Ancheta's vehicle.

The officer involved shooting investigation was headed by DA Investigators Martin Sanchez and Erik Morris.