

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

GILROY WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR HOME DEPOT BURGLARY

November 15, 2017

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Gilroy resident Linda Zabala, age 32, was sentenced on November 7, 2017 to three years in prison after pleading guilty to stealing from the Seaside Home Depot and trying to return the stolen items for cash at the Salinas Home Depot. Zabala also pled guilty to threatening a loss prevention officer.

On May 17, 2017, at approximately 6:20pm, Zabala and her then-boyfriend, Oscar Caston, were contacted by a Loss Prevention Officer at the Seaside Home Depot store when he noticed them trying to return merchandise with a receipt from a different store. When the officer attempted to speak with Zabala, she brandished a can of pepper spray at him and threatened to deploy it. Zabala and Caston then fled the store with several hundred dollars' worth of stolen merchandise. Zabala and Caston then drove to the Salinas Home Depot and attempted to return for cash the items they had just stolen from the Seaside location.

Caston is considered a fugitive from justice whose whereabouts are currently unknown. There is an active warrant for his arrest.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Zabala to three years in prison, which will be served in the Monterey County Jail due to Realignment. This is her first felony conviction.

This case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Peter Austen, Detective Kevin Miller and Corporal Alex Sakhrani of the Seaside Police Department, and Salinas Police Officers Christopher Neff and Robert Wayman.