

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SOLEDAD MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR COMMITTING ARMED ROBBERIES**

---

January 31, 2018

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Soledad resident Mario Valencia, age 23, was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison after entering no contest pleas to committing an armed robbery and a felony commercial burglary.

On May 6, 2016, at approximately 10:50pm, Valencia entered the Pizza Hut on North Main Street in Salinas carrying a gun and a hatchet. He approached the register and demanded money from the clerk while other employees hid in the back of the store.

On May 12, 2016, at approximately 2:25am, Valencia covered his face with a black hooded sweatshirt and walked into the 7-Eleven on South Main Street in Salinas. He approached the clerk, pointed a gun at him, and demanded money. The terrified clerk handed Valencia a couple hundred dollars, and Valencia fled on foot.

Later that day, Valencia was arrested by the California Highway Patrol after being involved in a DUI collision. KSBW aired the story, and the 7-Eleven clerk identified Valencia from the footage. The Pizza Hut clerk subsequently identified Valencia from the same KSBW segment.

On January 30, 2018, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Valencia to two years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

These cases were investigated by Salinas Police Officers Alejandro Magana, Edwin Cruz, Mario Avina, Abel Gomez, and Detective John Richardson, as well as California Highway Patrol Officers Rikalo and William Yoshimura.

###