

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS FOR ARMED ROBBERY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Luis Ruben Torres, age 21, of Salinas, to seventeen years and four months in state prison for two felony counts of robbery, one felony count of second degree burglary, and a firearm enhancement for using a firearm during a robbery. The defendant also admitted suffering a prior “strike” adjudication as a juvenile, which doubled the length of his sentence.

Torres pled no contest to the three felonies above and admitted a firearm enhancement based on the following facts.

On April 27, 2017, Torres entered a gas station in Salinas, wearing dark clothing and a gorilla mask, and brandishing a pistol. He demanded money from the clerk and two customers, all three of whom handed him cash.

On May 3, 2017, he returned to the same gas station, wearing the same clothing, and again, he brandished a pistol and demanded money. When he looked towards someone else for a moment, the clerk took the opportunity to try to wrestle the pistol away from him. During the course of the struggle, the defendant discharged two rounds, neither of which hit anyone. The clerk drew a knife he had on his person and stabbed the defendant in the middle portion of his lower back. The defendant managed to gain control of the knife and he stabbed the clerk in the right arm. During this struggle, a customer in the gas station tried to assist the clerk in wrestling the pistol away from the defendant. She attempted to use a personal taser she had on the defendant, but without effect. In response, the defendant hit the customer in the back of her head with his pistol.

Officers Arlene Currier, Daniel Garcia, Jeffrey Alford, David Crabill Jr., Froylan Aranda, Christopher Neff, Isidoro Medrano, and Michael Rivera of the Salinas Police Department conducted the investigation.