

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IN PRISON FOR COMMITTING ARMED HOME INVASION ROBBERY

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Michael Rice, age 34, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Mark Hood to seventeen years in prison after entering a no contest plea to committing an armed home invasion robbery. He will also serve sixteen months concurrently for an unrelated felony drug case, and one year concurrently for an unrelated misdemeanor domestic violence case. Rice's sentence was enhanced due to a prior strike conviction under California's Three Strikes Law.

On October 1, 2017, at approximately 8:06 pm, Rice, his juvenile son, and an unidentified third male forcibly entered Jane Doe's home, placed a firearm to her head, and threatened to shoot her if she did not pay them \$400/month. They then stole Doe's cell phone and fled the apartment complex. While running from the building, Rice pointed the firearm at several witnesses and threatened to shoot anyone who called 911. Thanks to the extraordinarily brave civilians who called 911, Rice was quickly identified and arrested.

Rice, a high ranking Norteno gang member, is the brother of Tami Huntsman, who is currently serving a life without the possibility of parole sentence for the murder and torture of two Salinas children.

These cases were investigated by the Salinas Police Department and District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards.

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