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PRESS RELEASE

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SALINAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BRANDISHING A REPLIC GUN AND SHOPLIFTING

People v Guadalupe Aguirre Espinoza; Case No. 19CR001276

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Guadalupe Aguirre Espinoza pled guilty to two counts of Brandishing a Replica Gun, and two counts of Shoplifting.

On February 1, 2019, a Safeway grocery store employee caught Espinoza stealing a shopping cart full of alcohol. After restocking the merchandise, the employee noticed Espinoza staring at him from outside the store. When the employee approached to ask him to leave, Espinoza drew a gun from his waistband and started walking away. A patron on his way into the store also observed the gun in Espinoza's hand and feared he would start shooting. Believing the gun was real, the patron called 911. Before Espinoza left the store, surveillance video showed he also shoplifted a bag of chips.

The Salinas Police Department responded and spent several minutes ordering Espinoza in both English and Spanish to get on the ground near the Safeway. The standoff concluded when Espinoza suddenly drew the firearm and officers opened fire and shot Espinoza.

Upon closer inspection, police determined Espinoza's gun was in fact a realistic-looking airsoft gun. Furthermore, during a search of Espinoza's property, police found approximately four grams of methamphetamine.

At sentencing, Espinoza was placed on probation for three years and ordered to serve 120 days in the county jail. The terms of his probation include orders to stay away from the location where the incident occurred, and to not use or possess weapons, alcohol, or drugs.

This case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Peter Austen, and Salinas Police Department Officers Luis Toribio, Luis Dorantes, and Edgar Garcia.

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