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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **SALINAS MAN RECEIVES FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR LITTLE CAESAR'S ROBBERIES**

*People v. Antonio Vargas, 18CR009867*

*SALINAS*, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Antonio Vargas, a thirty-year old resident of Salinas, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Mark E. Hood to five years in prison for robbing two Little Caesars pizza restaurants in Salinas in 2018. This conviction constitutes his second "strike" offense under California's Three Strikes Law.

On October 14, 2018, at approximately 9:47 p.m., Vargas entered the Little Caesar's on East Laurel Drive in Salinas. Wearing a hoodie and black bandana, he kept one hand inside his sweatshirt and intimated he had a firearm. He approached the register and demanded money. The employees believed he was armed, were in fear for their lives, and emptied the register for him. Vargas then fled the store. Approximately forty-five minutes later, Vargas robbed the Little Caesar's on Sanborn Road in Salinas. Wearing the same clothing and bandana, he again pretended to have a concealed firearm. These employees also feared for their lives and emptied the register for him.

These cases were investigated by Salinas Police Officers Francisco Maldonado, Alfonso Carrillo, John McNeil, Oscar Solis, Don Hart, and Violence Suppression Task Force Officers Zach Dunagan and Nick Reyes. District Attorney Investigator Tim Willmore also assisted with this investigation.