



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2017

## **PREVIOUSLY RELEASED FELON UNDER PROPOSITION 36 NOW SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR A STRING OF GAS STATION ROBBERIES**

Deputy District Attorney Richard Burchett is pleased to announce that today, August 17, 2017, David Hans Morales was sentenced to a term of 140 years-to-life in prison for a string of gas station robberies in 2016.

On August 30, 2016, the defendant went into an AM/PM on Blackstone and Sierra, waited for other customers to leave, and then approached a female cashier. He then lifted his shirt to reveal what appeared to be a handgun in his waistband and demanded money. Three days later, on September 2, 2016, the defendant went to an AM/PM on Blackstone and Bullard, lifted his shirt toward the female cashier and demanded money. Two days later, on September 4, 2016, the defendant went to a Family Dollar store on Kings Canyon and Sylmar, approached the female cashier and paid for a stick of gum. As the cashier was ringing him up, he lifted his shirt to reveal what appeared to be a handgun. The cashier gave him all the money in the till and the defendant left. Just hours later, the defendant went to a Valero gas station on Nees and Willow in the City of Clovis. As the female cashier was ringing him up, he lifted his shirt to reveal what looked like a handgun. The clerk shut her till and told the defendant that if he did not leave that she was going to press the silent alarm and call the police.

On March 28, 2017, a Fresno County Jury convicted the defendant of four (4) counts of Robbery [P.C. § 211] and one (1) count of Attempted Robbery [P.C. § 664/211]. In addition, the jury also found that the defendant had previously been convicted of two (2) prior Robberies in 1986 and 1989.

Today, the Honorable Judge Arlan Harrell agreed with the prosecution that Mr. Morales was “precisely the type of violent recidivist for whom voters enacted the Three Strikes Scheme in 1994”, and sentenced the defendant to 140 years-to-life in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, upon reaching age 60, and after serving 25 years, Mr. Morales will be eligible for early release under the Elderly Parole Program.

**In 1996, Mr. Morales was sentenced to a term of 26 years-to-life for a conviction in Los Angeles County. After the passage of Proposition 36, the defendant was resentenced and released from prison in December 2013. He began this string of robberies in Fresno County after being out of prison for fewer than three (3) years.**

The Media may email [FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us) or contact Administrative Assistant Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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