



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Defendant Receives Second Strike for Assault with a Deadly Weapon on H.E.A.T. Investigator

Today, October 20th, 2022, Antonio Jesus Palomino (28, of Fresno) was sentenced to 12 years 4 months in state prison for an assault with a deadly weapon against a Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) task force investigator. Palomino's sentence was handed down by the Honorable Gregory Fain following a jury trial that concluded with a guilty verdict on August 24th, 2022, in the Fresno Superior Court. Palomino was previously convicted of a strike offense for assault with a deadly weapon resulting in great bodily injury on December 23, 2014.

Palomino was arrested by the H.E.A.T. task force on September 25th, 2020. Evidence presented at trial showed that H.E.A.T. task force investigators located a stolen 2020 Ford Explorer around West Avenue and Golden State Boulevard, in the city of Fresno, in the mid-morning hours. During a pursuit of the stolen vehicle that led investigators along SR-99, SR-180, and SR-41 as well as surface streets in Fresno, Palomino threw a shovel out of the sunroof of the stolen vehicle at a pursuing investigator. The investigator was forced to take evasive maneuvers at a high rate of speed to avoid being struck and injured by the deadly weapon.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the members of the H.E.A.T. task force for their dedication to this case. The H.E.A.T. task force is composed of detectives and investigators from the California Highway Patrol, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, Clovis Police Department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kyle P. McPherson assigned to the H.E.A.T. task force.

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