



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA

MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
209 W. Yosemite Avenue/Madera, California 93637  
(559)675-7726 / FAX (559)673-0430

David A. Linn, District Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: David A. Linn**  
**District Attorney**  
**(559) 675-7726**  
**david.linn@co.madera.ca.gov**

### **CHOWCHILLA MAN SENTENCED TO TWENTY FIVE YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON**

MADERA, CA. – On October 2, 2015, The Madera County Superior Court sentenced Cruz Sandoval, 40, of Chowchilla, to twenty five years to life in state prison for assault with a deadly weapon.

On March 26, 2015, Madera police officers were dispatched to the area of C Street and Sixth Street in regards to a stabbing in progress. Officers observed the victim, Valentine Cruz, sitting on a bench near the corner of C Street and Sixth Street. The victim was saturated with blood. Nearby witnesses reported they observed a male subject stab the victim. The witnesses provided a description of the male who committed the assault and indicated he fled the area on foot. Officers observed a male walking on C Street who matched the description provided by witnesses. Officers made contact with the male subject who was identified as Cruz Sandoval. At this time, Sandoval threw a bloody knife from his jacket. The knife was described as two scissor blades with a white cloth and twine wrapped around the blades to hold them together. As Sandoval was being handcuffed the officers observed he had blood on his hands. The victim, Valentine Cruz, suffered a laceration to his neck about six inches long and had injuries to the left side of his torso.

Sandoval pled guilty to a charge of PC245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon, admitting three prior strike convictions. Sandoval was sentenced by Madera Superior Court Judge Joseph Soldani to twenty five years to life in state prison, pursuant to a plea agreement. Sandoval's prior convictions were for assault with a deadly weapon and participating in a street gang.

District Attorney, David A. Linn, would like to acknowledge the efforts of Madera Police Detective Alicia Keiser, Sergeant Tom Burns, and Officers Shawn Bushey, David Herspring, Brandon Bianchi, Juan Goana, and Steven Boehm.