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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man Who Kidnapped Family Convicted By Jury – Faces Life in Prison

(Woodland, CA) – District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on March 15, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted Paul Alexander Hinojosa, Jr., 31, of Woodland, of multiple kidnapping, carjacking and child endangerment charges. On May 2, 2009, Hinojosa asked the victim for a ride home from K's Carwash in Woodland. The sympathetic stranger agreed. Once in the car with the victim and his three children, Hinojosa pulled out a firearm and demanded money. Hinojosa threatened to kill the victim and his kids if his demands were disobeyed. Hinojosa also told the victim that he would kill everyone in the victim's household if the victim reported the incident to the police. The children were able to escape when the victim distracted Hinojosa by grabbing the muzzle of what was determined to be a replica firearm. The two fought over the gun before Hinojosa got out of the car and fled. Hinojosa was apprehended when he ran into a nearby home. The residents, also strangers to Hinojosa, detained him until police arrived.

In reaction to the verdict, District Attorney Jeff Reisig praised the heroic actions of the citizens who captured Hinojosa and the fine investigation of the Woodland Police Department. Reisig said, "But for the bravery of the family that subdued Mr. Hinojosa after he broke into their home, he could still be on the run victimizing others."

Hinojosa committed these violent crimes while out of custody on bail during a pending domestic violence case. Hinojosa had remained out of custody on a judge's order despite repeated objections by the district attorney's office when Hinojosa failed to appear for court and was accused of harassing witnesses.

As a result of his convictions, Hinojosa faces life in prison.

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