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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Jury Convicts Sacramento Man of Shooting at Police with a  
Semiautomatic Firearm**

**Ronnie Barahona shot at police after high speed chase**

**(Woodland, CA) – May 16, 2011-** Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on May 11, 2011, a Yolo County jury convicted 33-year-old Ronnie Mauricio Barahona of Sacramento of one count of Assault on a Peace Officer with a Semiautomatic Firearm as well as an enhancement for personal discharge of a firearm during the commission of a felony. The same jury acquitted the defendant for the same count on another officer and was unable to reach a verdict on two other counts.

On December 30, 2009, Barahona and his crime partner used a blowtorch in an attempt to steal an ATM machine. After getting spooked by a security guard, Barahona left the scene but was soon spotted by a Sacramento police officer. After another Sacramento police officer arrived, Barahona drove away in a stolen truck and led the officers on a high speed chase through downtown Sacramento.

Barahona then sped onto the freeway heading to West Sacramento. While taking a corner at high speeds, Barahona lost control of the stolen truck and crashed after hitting a fire hydrant and several parked cars.

Barahona fled on foot from the truck with his .45 caliber gun. During the foot chase, Barahona fired four shots at the officers. Nobody was injured. After a high intensity search of the area, a Sacramento K-9 officer and his dog located Barahona hiding in the rafters of a nearby house.

The jury heard evidence from many police officers and several ballistics experts. After being unable to reach a unanimous verdict on attempted murder, the jury agreed to one count of Assault on a Peace Officer with a Semiautomatic Firearm, with an enhancement for personally discharging the firearm, and four counts of Negligent Discharge of a Firearm.

Deputy District Attorney Clint Parish prosecuted the case and praised the work of the Sacramento police officers. “These two police officers were able to arrest the suspect after he fired shots at them,” said Parish. “The officers might have been injured or killed simply because this dangerous man was trying to avoid apprehension.”

The Honorable Stephen Mock of the Yolo County Superior Court presided over the trial. Before the trial began, the defendant pled guilty to Auto Theft, Reckless Evading, Hit and Run and Resisting Arrest so the jury only had to make a decision on Barahona’s attempt to shoot the officers. Judge Mock scheduled sentencing for June 24, 2011. The defendant faces more than 30 years in prison for his crime spree.

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