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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CON MAN CONVICTED OF RIPPING OFF ELDERLY VICTIM

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Woodland, CA –

Today, a jury convicted Richard Isaac Esquivel, 58, of Elk Grove, of stealing over \$13,000 from his landlord during a six-month period from October, 2004 through March 2005. Esquivel was convicted of two felonies: theft from an elder and fraudulent use of a credit card. During the course of a five-day jury trial, the jury heard that Esquivel rented a room in a house in Clarksburg, CA from the now 71 year old victim in August of 2004. After he not only failed to pay rent or shared expenses for several months, the victim discovered in February of 2005 that he had also been taking her ATM Check card to withdraw cash at ATM's and make purchases online for movies, flowers, cigars, and presents. In December 2004 alone, he charged over \$8,000 to her account alone.

The victim at first believed Defendant would, in fact, pay her back the money he owed her. After two months of empty promises and the mounting back-owed rent, however, she and her family members, under the direction of the investigating officer, confronted Esquivel about the thousands of dollars worth of charges on her credit card. Defendant admitted to making the charges in an explosive tape recorded confrontation that was played for the jury.

The case was investigated by Yolo County Sheriff's Department Detective Don Harmon and prosecuted by Jennifer Paredes, Deputy District Attorney in the Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse Unit for the Yolo County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Paredes stated, "Financial Elder Abuse often goes unreported for long periods of time because the victims are fearful or embarrassed. This makes investigation and prosecution challenging. Victims of financial elder abuse are often fearful that their abuser, on whom they often depend, will abandon them. Such victims also experience feelings of embarrassment stemming from a sense that the victim is somehow to blame

for failing to see through the deceit because of diminishing faculties. The victim was very brave to testify in this case.”

According to District Attorney Jeff Reisig, “Elder abuse is a serious crime that our communities can never tolerate. We will do everything in our power to prosecute criminals like this to the fullest extent of the law.”

Mr. Esquivel will be sentenced on November 21st and faces a maximum sentence of four years in state prison.

For questions relating to this press release, please contact Ann Hurd (530) 666-8180.

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