



GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

vcdistrictattorney.com

Twitter: @VenturaDAOoffice

Contact: Blake Heller
Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 654-3072
E-mail: blake.heller@ventura.org
Approved: MDS *nb*
Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2018
Release No.: 18-125

Oxnard Men Sentenced for Robbery Spree

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Joseph Salas (3/15/99), of Oxnard, and Carlos Avila (1/11/97), of Oxnard, were sentenced for their role in kidnappings, carjackings, and robberies. Both Salas and Avila pled guilty to the charges in September 2018. On November 28, 2018, Salas was sentenced by Superior Court Judge David Worley to 26 years 4 months in state prison. Avila was sentenced today by Judge Worley to 9 years 4 months in state prison. Salas was convicted of one count of kidnapping and two counts of robbery with special allegations that he committed the crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang. Avila was convicted of one count of carjacking and one count of robbery with special allegations that he committed the crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang. The crimes encompassed three separate incidents in April 2017. Salas participated in all three incidents, while Avila participated in one incident.

On April 3, 2017, Salas and three accomplices entered a victim's vehicle and demanded he drive them through the city of Oxnard. One of the accomplices displayed a shotgun during the incident. The victim was able to escape from the vehicle. Salas and his accomplices drove off in the victim's vehicle. On April 6, 2017, Salas and an accomplice approached another victim and robbed him at gunpoint of his cellular phone, wallet, and car keys. On April 29, 2017, Salas, Avila, and a juvenile committed a carjacking of another victim in Oxnard. They also robbed the victim of his wallet, which contained \$300.

The prosecution was based upon an extensive investigation by the Oxnard Police Department and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department.

###

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

Follow the Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Twitter @VenturaDAOoffice