

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **DATE** 9-09-10 **TIME** 5:00 PM

TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED AFTER FAILED ROBBERY ATTEMPT

Modesto, CA – Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department authorities have arrested two Modesto area men after a failed robbery attempt to an automotive business on Kansas Ave. Patrol deputies responded to the Ponces automotive business located on Kansas Ave. at approximately 1:18 p.m. Thursday afternoon to reports of an armed robbery.

With the assistance of the Modesto Police Department, the deputies were able to make contact with employees inside of the business and determined that three men entered and demanded money. One of the men was believed to have been armed with some sort of weapon. Further investigation revealed the shop's employees personally knew the suspects, and they were able to provide investigators with a known address in South Modesto where they could possibly be located. No injuries were reported and no shots were fired.

A white minivan believed to have been involved in the incident was later located in the 1700 block of Seattle Street. Three men were initially detained; however, only 38-year-old Manuel Espinoza and 24-year-old Ricardo Reges were arrested and charged. Deputies were still investigating late Thursday afternoon, and the possibility that a third suspect was outstanding was still being explored. Espinoza and Reges will be charged with attempted kidnapping, extortion, criminal threats, attempted robbery and brandishing a weapon.

Anybody with further information regarding this incident are urged to contact the Sheriff's Office, or they can choose to remain anonymous and call Stanislaus County Area Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-602-7463. Locally calls can be received at 209-521-4636. For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).

