

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
Larry D. Morse II

ASSISTANT
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
Joseph M.
Tresidder



CHIEF DEPUTY
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
David Moranda

CHIEF DEPUTY
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
Harold L. Nutt

2222 "M" STREET, MERCED, CA 95340
TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 209) 385-7381
FAX (209) 385-7473

November 1, 2007

JURY CONVICTS GANG ASSOCIATE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ASSAULTING COPS

Merced resident, Lexibel Ewing, 27 who transported large amounts of methamphetamine and ecstasy and violently fought with Officers when caught, was convicted by an 8 woman, 4 man jury last week, said Deputy District Attorney Christa Gonzalez. The verdict followed a week long trial presided over by Merced County Superior Court judge Brian McCabe.

According to Gonzalez, who prosecuted the case, the charges arose from a June 9, 2007 incident which began as a routine traffic stop. When CHP Officers approached, Ewing fled on foot, breaking into an apartment in an effort to escape. When Officers cornered Ewing, they observed him dumping narcotics and cash, Gonzalez said. As they attempted to take Ewing into custody, he became violent, and physically assaulted one of the Officers who was eventually forced to seek medical treatment as a result, said Gonzalez. During the struggle, Ewing referenced the killing of Merced Police Department Officer Stephan Gray, stating "that's why Gray got shot". After booking Ewing into the Merced County jail, the Officers also found a large amount of methamphetamine he had stashed under the seat of their patrol car.

"A violent drug dealer has been taken off the streets as a result of this jury's hard work", said Gonzalez. "The Officers involved in this case used exceptional restraint and judgment in a situation that could easily have resulted in serious injury or death to those involved," added Gonzalez.

Because of the convictions, all of which carry enhanced sentences under the "Three Strikes" law, Ewing faces up to 17 year in prison. In addition, Ewing will have to serve at least 80% of his prison sentence.