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PRESS RELEASE

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Chico Police Link Highway 99 Crash Victim and Shooting Suspect *-- Connecting the Dots Leads to Arrest --*

Chico, CA – Three weeks of dedicated investigative efforts by members of the Chico Police Department has led to the arrest of a man responsible for setting off a chain-reaction of dangerous incidents. Reports of a shooting incident and calls of a vehicle crash on Highway 99 initially appeared to be isolated cases. Further investigative work by the Chico Police Detective Bureau revealed the two incidents were connected through one subject as the common denominator.

Successful police work often requires law enforcement officers to put a puzzle together when there are numerous missing pieces. In this case, the missing piece was a young man who set off a chain-reaction of events which threatened the life of one individual and put the public safety of citizens in danger.

On Thursday, May 11, 2017 just before 8:30PM, Chico Police Department dispatch received calls reporting shots heard near W. 1st Avenue and Downing Avenue. As police responded, additional emergency calls came in reporting a car collision involving at least two vehicles on Highway-99, northbound, near East Avenue.

As police units identified the shooting scene in the 1100 block of Downing Avenue, officers responding to assist the California Highway Patrol with the accident on Highway 99, encountered four subjects running from one of the involved vehicles. The male subjects ran into a nearby residential neighborhood just east of Highway 99.

Chico Police officers set up a perimeter around the neighborhood and with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol helicopter unit, conducted an aerial search of the area. Officers detained one subject who matched the description of one of the suspects spotted running from the crash scene.

In a congruent search of the area, with the assistance of the Butte County Sheriff's Office, a male subject also seen leaving the scene of the car crash was located on Garner Lane. Detectives later determined he was the intended victim of the shooting incident on Downing Avenue. That victim was not injured.

Over the course of the following two weeks which included numerous interviews with detained subjects and searches of area locations, Chico Police Detectives connected the dots of the seemingly unrelated events, to link one male subject as the focal point to the incidents. The suspect was identified as 18-year-old Quintero Silva of Chico.

During this investigation detectives learned the chain of events leading to the shooting and car crash began as the result of a minor verbal altercation between Silva and the intended victim. The two men had exchanged words, at which time Silva left the area, obtained a firearm and waited for an opportunity to ambush the victim. That opportunity presented itself later in the day when the victim was inside his vehicle on Downing Avenue. Silva opened fire and then took off. The victim was not struck or injured by the gunshots. The victim then followed the suspect's vehicle in efforts to obtain a license plate number. The traffic accident on Highway 99 occurred when Silva took counter-measures, colliding with the victim's car to avoid being followed.

"Our officers and detectives worked diligently to uncover the truth in this investigation," said Police Chief Michael O'Brien. "This is yet another example of their competence and professionalism."

Two and half weeks after the violent and potentially deadly incidents, Chico Police arrested Silva for Attempted Murder and Shooting into an Occupied Vehicle. He was booked into the Butte County Jail.

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