



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

12/22/17

**WOODLAKE MAN CONVICTED OF CRIME AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER, DUI**

Yesterday in Department 10 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia, Division, Judge Kathryn Montejano presiding, a Tulare County jury found Derek Renteria, age 23, of Woodlake, guilty of felony assault on a peace officer, felony evading a peace officer, misdemeanor DUI, and misdemeanor resisting arrest. Renteria possesses two prior misdemeanor DUI convictions and three prior driver's license suspensions, as well as a 2014 misdemeanor hit and run conviction.

At approximately 7:38 am on May 14, 2016, a Woodlake Police Department officer observed a vehicle driving in circles at a high rate of speed in the middle of Castle Rock Street and Katelyn Lane. When the officer attempted a traffic stop, the vehicle, driven by Renteria, sped toward the officer in an attempt to hit him. The officer swerved and took evasive actions to avoid a possible collision. A pursuit ensued, with Renteria running stop signs and driving upwards of 50 mph through residential neighborhoods. When a tire eventually blew out, Renteria fled the vehicle on foot in to a nearby field. After a chase, Renteria was apprehended, but not before resisting arrest. It was discovered that Renteria had spent the prior night and early morning drinking with friends.

"Our police officers and deputies risk their lives daily in order to keep us safe. Criminals who commit crimes against police officers are a danger to all of us. It demonstrates a wanton disregard for society, authority, and the rule of law," said District Attorney Tim Ward.

Sentencing is set for next month in Superior Court where Renteria faces over 5 years in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Deborah Kwon of the Crimes against Police Officers Unit and investigated by the Woodlake Police Department.

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