



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore today released the following statement:

Today, prosecutors obtained a significant verdict in the trial of a man accused of aggravated robbery in the 147<sup>th</sup> District Court. After the three-day trial, a jury convicted Ramon Saldana, age 23, of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, and sentenced him to eighteen (18) years in prison, and assessed a fine of \$1,920.

Prosecutors Michelle Hallee and Jeremy Sylestine presented evidence that on January 10, 2016, Saldana and a co-defendant entered the Select Mart on Rutland Dr. in North Austin where they robbed a clerk and a patron at gunpoint. An eyewitness outside the store called 911 and gave the Austin Police Department (APD) a description of the vehicle. APD officers located the vehicle moments later and pulled the car over. A juvenile co-defendant fled but was found a short time later with a backpack full of money, stolen property, and a loaded pistol. The defendant was detained at the time of the car stop. Detectives linked the defendant and the other occupants of the vehicle to the robbery through the victims' wallets that were found in the juvenile's backpack, items taken during the robbery, and the shoes worn by the robbers, which were visible and identifiable from surveillance video.

Michelle Hallee, lead prosecutor on the case, said: "We are delighted the jury returned such a quick verdict and strong sentence. This shows that neither the DA's office nor the Austin community will tolerate violent gun crime. We are grateful to the APD officers for their rapid response to the crime scene, which led to the immediate apprehension of the perpetrators, and to the detectives who completed the investigation and worked with us to prepare the case for trial.