

COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 15, 2017

MULTIPLE ROBBERY AND ASSAULT CHARGES FILED AGAINST PAIR FOR LAST WEEKS ROBBERY SPREE

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed a Felony Criminal Complaint against Blaze Jerald Lopez (21, of Fresno) and Brian Carter Johnson (26, of Fresno) for a string of armed robberies that were committed at nine (9) different convenience stores in the City of Fresno last Thursday and Friday.

The Complaint charges both Mr. Lopez and Mr. Johnson with seventeen (17) felony counts, including:

- 1.) Nine (9) counts of Second Degree Robbery [Penal Code § 211];
- 2.) Seven (7) counts of Assault with a Semiautomatic Firearm [Penal Code § 245(b)];
- 3.) One (1) count of Grand Theft [Penal Code § 487(a)].

Also charged in the Complaint are additional allegations against both defendants that a firearm was used during the commission of the crimes.

If convicted of the charges, Mr. Lopez faces approximately 50 years in custody at State Prison, and Mr. Johnson faces approximately 23 years in custody at State Prison.

Both defendants are currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail.

The defendants are scheduled for arraignment in Department 32 of the Fresno County Superior Court on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

The Media may email <u>FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us</u> or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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