



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Chico Police Officer Charged in Off-Duty Battery

District Attorney Mike Ramsey today announced the filing of a criminal complaint against Chico Police Officer Todd Lopez, 44, stemming from an off-duty incident at a local casino in Oroville. Ramsey said the complaint charges Lopez with unlawfully punching a 35-year-old male in the mouth after a confrontation outside the casino.

Ramsey said the November 23, 2011 assault was captured on the casino's video system. Ramsey said the incident apparently began with an insult by the male towards a female associate of Lopez. Lopez then followed the male outside the casino and punched him once in the mouth. The male suffered a split lip requiring two stitches. Casino security and the Butte County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident, but no arrests were made at the time. A subsequent internal investigation by the Chico Police Department of the incident lead to a criminal investigation by the District Attorney's Office with the cooperation of the Chico Police Department and the sheriff's office.

Lopez was charged with one count of simple battery. Ramsey said Lopez will appear on the charge in Butte County Superior Court on March 23, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. Should Lopez be convicted on the battery count, he would be prohibited from carrying a firearm for ten (10) years. Ramsey referred all inquires as to Lopez's employment status to the Chico Police Department.