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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 14, 2022

Man Sentenced to Prison in Stabbing at Mondo's Coffeehouse in Chico

In Butte County Superior Court yesterday, a Chico man was sentenced for a stabbing that occurred at Mondo's Coffeehouse in Chico last August. **Casey Larsen**, 32, was sentenced to six years in state prison after having pleaded guilty last month to a felony count of Assault with Deadly Weapon, and admitting that he caused Great Bodily Injury to the victim he stabbed.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the stabbing occurred on August 16, 2021 shortly after 7 a.m., when Larsen had been asked by coffeehouse employees to leave the café for causing a disturbance. When Larsen refused to leave, the victim, also an employee of the coffeehouse approached Larsen and asked Larsen once again to leave the establishment. In response, Larsen sprayed the victim with an unknown substance, and as the victim rubbed his eyes to remove the substance, Larsen removed a knife from his backpack. Larsen then stabbed the victim once in the chest and once in the abdomen, and fled the coffeehouse. The victim was left with life-threatening injuries requiring transport to Enloe Hospital and emergency surgery.

Upon review of the coffeehouse's video surveillance, Chico Police identified Larsen as the suspect, and an alert went out to law enforcement. Three hours after the stabbing was reported, police investigated a report of a suspect brandishing of a knife in the 600 block on Cohasset Road. After recognizing this suspect as Casey Larsen, he was arrested and booked in Butte County Jail. Notably, Larsen had changed and discarded his clothing, as well as the knife he used in the stabbing assault.

At yesterday's sentencing hearing, Larsen's defense attorney requested the court grant probation or sentence him to the lower term of five years. Ramsey said his office requested the upper term of seven years be imposed. Ultimately, the judge, noting this was Larsen's first felony conviction, sentenced Larsen to the middle term of six years in state prison for his offense.

