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**DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED MURDER, VARIOUS GUN CHARGES**

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that a jury has convicted John Jason Thomas, for his role in attacks on several families, just one week before Christmas 2013. Thomas was charged with Attempted Murder with Premeditation and Deliberation, Attempted Robbery, Assault with a Firearm, Carrying a loaded firearm, and Possession of a firearm by a felon. Assistant District Attorney Michael Mahan prosecuted the case.

On December 18, 2013, a family of four, including a 3-month-old baby, were driving door-to-door to sell tamales to make a little extra money for the holidays. While in their car on Bixby Street, Thomas walked up to them, armed with a loaded revolver, and attempted to open the locked door of their car. He then began banging on the glass with the gun, which was hard enough to crack the window. The driver of the car got out to protect his family, at which time the defendant pointed the gun at him and pulled the trigger twice. Luckily for the driver, the defendant had the wrong ammunition in the gun which caused it to misfire. The defendant also pointed his gun at several other people during the incident, including a 15-year-old boy, and a mother and daughter who were driving by.

Thomas faces life in prison as a result of the jury's verdict. About the verdict, Mahan said, "This incident happened over five years ago. As a result, the victims in this case had to live with this for a long time before justice was served. Mr. Thomas' conduct was terrifying, dangerous, and demonstrated an absolute lack of value for human life and people in general." Rosell added, "Our office is committed to pursuing justice for victims of crime, regardless of their background, or status. We will use the full resources available to hold violent offenders accountable for their actions, no matter how many years have passed."