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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OVERNIGHT PROBATION SWEEP LEADS TO ARRESTS, GUNS, DRUGS**

MERCED – The Merced County Probation Department, in partnership with other local agencies, conducted several compliance searches Thursday afternoon and into Friday morning that ended in seven arrests.

The compliance sweep, which started at 3 p.m. Thursday and ended at 1 a.m. Friday, also netted 12 firearms, a set of brass knuckles, methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

With assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service, Merced County Sheriff's Office, Merced Police Department, Livingston Police Department, and UC Merced Police Department, the following individuals were arrested and booked into the Merced County Jail:

- Jose Manuel Alvarez (DOB: 7/8/86) — Possession of marijuana for sale over one pound, felon in possession of firearm and violation of Post Release Community Supervision
- Lee Thao (DOB: 11/26/85) — Outstanding warrant, felon in possession of firearms, possession of burglary tools, participation in a criminal street gang and possession of a controlled substance
- Stephon Graham (DOB: 11/25/89) — Felon in possession of firearm and participation in a criminal street gang
- Seth Rodriguez (DOB: 8/6/91) — Possession of brass knuckles

Three other individuals were arrested on misdemeanor warrants. They were cited and released at the scene.

“This operation was a success due to the collaboration and cooperation of many law enforcement agencies in Merced County,” said Chief Probation Officer Jeff Kettering. “By bringing together resources and working together, we can do our part in keeping our community safer.”

Photos from the compliance searches are attached to this news release.

