



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**REDDING MAN FACING LIFE FOR ROBBERY OF MARIJUANA
COLLECTIVE**

September 19, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A Redding man was convicted today of three counts of robbery and one count of burglary in connection with a September 15, 2011 armed robbery at the Trusted Friends Medical Marijuana Collective in downtown Redding. Ivan Roosevelt Vercher, age 32, was convicted after a six week jury trial in Shasta County Superior Court.

The crimes occurred during the early evening of Thursday September 15, 2011 when two assailants, later identified as Joshua Wright, 19, and Elijah Potillor, 16, of Redding, entered the collective and demanded marijuana and money while Potillor held the victims at gunpoint. Wright and Potillor fled and were later identified by evidence left at the crime scene and witness statements. Redding Police quickly apprehended Ivan Vercher and determined that he provided the get away car and acted as the lookout from a location across from the collective while the robbery was in progress. Also apprehended was 16 year old Caleb Vitellaro of Redding who investigators determined drove the get away car. Wright pled guilty to robbery earlier this year and is currently serving a 5 year prison sentence. Potillor and Vitellaro were prosecuted as adults for their roles in the robbery. Vitellaro pled no contest to being an accessory to the robbery and was placed on probation. Potillor pled guilty to robbery and being armed with a firearm and awaits sentencing.

Vercher, who was released on parole seven months before the Trusted Friends robbery after serving 11 years in prison for a prior series of armed robberies, will face a second trial on Friday at which prosecutors will present evidence of 10 prior "strike" convictions. If all of the strike convictions are found to be true, Vercher will face 125 years-to-life under California's Three Strikes Law.

The case was investigated by Redding Police Investigators and is being prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Brian Popkes, and Deputy District Attorney Sarah Van Slyke.