



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

Stephen S. Carlton
District Attorney

**Redding Man Sentenced to 14 Years plus 75 Years to Life for Armed
Robbery**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Deputy District Attorney: Sarah Van Slyke
(530)245-6300

Ivan Roosevelt Vercher was sentenced on June 14, 2013 to 14 years plus 75 years to life for 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. Vercher was sentenced under the Three Strikes Law because he had 10 prior strike convictions for armed robbery and attempted armed robbery. Vercher was convicted on September 19, 2012, 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 was on parole at the time of the robbery and had been released from prison just seven months before the Trusted Friends robbery. Vercher had been released from prison after serving 11 years for a prior series of armed robberies that occurred in Shasta and Lassen Counties.

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