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**MEDIA ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

**MALL PARKING LOT KIDNAPPING, ROBBERY CASE RESULTS IN PRISON SENTENCE**

EL PASO, Texas (04/30/2025) – A man who was accused of kidnapping a woman and her child at gunpoint from the Cielo Vista Mall parking lot and forcing her to withdraw thousands of dollars of cash from a bank while threatening her daughter’s life has pleaded guilty and will serve time in prison.

Victor Hugo Escobedo, 53, of New Mexico, pleaded guilty to Aggravated Robbery and two counts of Aggravated Kidnapping with a Deadly Weapon, all first-degree felonies. The plea hearing happened on Thursday, Apr. 24 in the 346th District Court with Judge Patricia C. Baca presiding.

On Sept. 6, 2024, El Paso Police Dept. officers were called to the Cielo Vista Mall parking lot about a kidnapping and robbery. The victim told officers she and her daughter, 2, were in the mall parking lot when a man she didn’t know approached them, flashed a handgun, then forced her into her truck. She said the man ordered her to drive to a nearby bank and then told her to go into the bank to withdraw \$5,300. The victim said the man threatened her and her daughter’s life if she didn’t comply. El Paso police officers were able to identify the defendant using fingerprints lifted off the victim’s truck. The prints matched a record on file for Escobedo in Albuquerque, NM. He was arrested at his home a week later.

As part of the plea agreement, Escobedo was sentenced to seven years in state prison and waived all of his appellate rights.

“Despite his lack of prior criminal history, this was a case that clearly warranted a sentence of imprisonment,” said District Attorney James Montoya. “A mother witnessing her young daughter

being threatened at gunpoint by a complete stranger is unthinkable and can shatter the sense of safety not just for the victim, but for the community, as well. I commend the El Paso Police Department officers and detectives who were able to find the man responsible for this crime.”

Assistant District Attorneys Elena Esparza and Jesse Mende represented the State of Texas in the prosecution of the case.

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