



## San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 25, 2018**  
Contact: Chief Deputy City Attorney Mike Giorgino at  
[mgiorgino@sandiego.gov](mailto:mgiorgino@sandiego.gov) or (619) 533-5886

### **City Attorney Convicts Poway Tip Jar Thief** *Ordered to serve 10 days in jail, must pay restitution*

A 20-year-old Ramona man who stole tip jars from four restaurants, a coffeehouse, and an ice cream parlor, gaining instant notoriety on social media, has been sentenced to serve 10 days in County Jail.

Kenneth Dalton McDaniel distracted employees at six establishments along a commercial stretch of Poway Road and walked out with the tip jars on January 13 and 16, 2018.

Greens Please, an organic foods restaurant, captured the crime on surveillance video and posted the thief's photo on Facebook with this message: "This dirt bag felt entitled to grab the tip jar of our valued employees today. Somehow he felt he deserved the generosity you give for the great customer service in our establishment more than them. Help us make him famous."

Members of the public came forward and identified McDaniel from the social media post and he was arrested by investigators from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The San Diego City Attorney's Office, which prosecutes misdemeanor crimes in the City of Poway, filed petty theft charges against him.

McDaniel was arraigned on July 12, and pled guilty to three counts of petty theft. The court sentenced him to 10 days in custody and three years of probation. He must also attend a shoplifter's course and pay a \$696 fine. If he reoffends or violates the terms of his probation, he could be ordered to serve up to an additional 18 months of custody (minus what he has already completed).

As part of the plea agreement, McDaniel was also ordered to stay away from the following businesses for three years and to pay restitution for the tips he stole, as indicated:

- (1) Greens Please, 12202 Poway Road, Poway, CA, \$10.
- (2) The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 12314 Poway Road, Poway, CA, \$20.
- (3) Five Guys, 13301 Poway Road, Poway, CA, \$20.
- (4) Taco Taco Poway, 13429 Community Road, Poway, CA, \$15.
- (5) Everbowl, 13538 Poway Road, Poway, CA, \$20.
- (6) Baskin-Robbins, 13477 Poway Road, Poway, CA, \$8.

**"As a former waitress, I know that restaurant employees count on tips to supplement their wages. I'm glad that these hard-working employees will be made whole,"** San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott said. **"As a prosecutor, I applaud the citizens who helped our law enforcement officers bring this criminal to justice."**

This criminal case was handled on behalf of the People of the State of California by Chief Deputy City Attorney Mark Skeels, head of the City Attorney's [Special Prosecutions Unit](#).

###

---

Recent City Attorney media releases can be accessed on the San Diego City Attorney's home page located on the Internet at <http://www.sandiegocityattorney.org>

**1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620, San Diego, California 92101-4188 (619) 236-6220**