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**MICHAEL J. RUBIO**  
SUPERVISOR - FIFTH DISTRICT

**February 7, 2006**

**Supervisor Rubio Calls for Ban on Sale of Toy Guns and Smoke Bombs  
from Ice Cream Trucks**

Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio today made a referral to explore the feasibility of instituting an ordinance in Kern County that would prohibit the sale of toy guns, smoke bombs, firecracker poppers and lasers from ice cream trucks. These trucks are permitted to sell food products, particularly frozen ice cream, around neighborhoods throughout the County. The Supervisor also calls for the Sheriff's Department to work with the Environmental Health Department to immediately inspect all ice cream trucks to guarantee parents that their children are not being offered these "toys" while children purchase ice cream after school.

"The sale of toy weapons and smoke bombs from ice cream trucks is inappropriate in all circumstances and the practice should be stopped immediately." Rubio said. "Kern County residents deserve to know that the only products that their children will be able to get from the ice cream truck riding down their street are indeed ice cream and permitted food products."

It is incumbent on public leaders to ensure that the safety and well-being of children in Kern County is not compromised because of lax regulations or enforcement on these mobile retail establishments. With the recent spike in gang violence and related crimes in the County, parents expect authorities to remain proactive in disallowing these "toys" from being sold from ice cream trucks. The scope of this ordinance would be solely restricted to ice cream trucks.