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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: September 20, 2006

Re: Mark Edward Davidson

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mark Edward Davidson, age 46, of Modesto, was convicted in a jury trial of Auto Theft and felony evading a peace officer. Deputy District Attorney Dave Radford prosecuted the case. Mr. Davidson also admitted in court that he had a prior auto theft conviction, for which he had been sent to state prison, as well as three other prior criminal convictions for which he had served time in state prison. The prior convictions can be used to enhance Mr. Davidson's sentence. Sentencing was set for October 18, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable John J. Whiteside. Davidson faces a maximum sentence of 8 years in state prison.

The case arose out of events which occurred on August 25, 2005 in the City of Ceres. Davidson was driving a stolen pickup truck when he was spotted by Officer Jeremy Caron of the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCATT). StanCATT officers tried to stop Davidson, but he fled, ignoring the red lights and siren on several police cars. Davidson was eventually captured when he abandoned the truck and ran into a convalescent hospital in Ceres.

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