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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: 03/20/08

Re: People v. Shama

Phone: 525-5550

Modesto, California . Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Monadle N. Shama pled no contest in Stanislaus Superior Court Case Numbers 1233602, 1240889, and 1241610 to two counts of felony grand theft, one count of felony auto theft, and one count of felony identity theft. Mr. Shama was placed on a grant of three years formal probation in each case. The Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced him to a total of 360 days in jail. In each case he was ordered to pay restitution to the victims. These cases were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Consumer Fraud Unit.

Case No. 1233602 was investigated by a team of Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) investigators working out of the Fresno field operations office. (BAR is part of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.) Mr. Shama and his parents, Nayel and Sabah Shama, ran an auto repair business licensed to his mother, Sabah Shama. The shop was located on Paradise Road in Modesto. Using a banner and a large sign, they advertised the business as an official California smog check station when in fact they were not licensed to do smog checks.

Between December 2006, and May 2007, on three different occasions and using a different vehicle on each occasion, BAR undercover officers, led by Program Representative Mirl Morse, took vehicles in to the Shamas shop to be repaired. Prior to taking the vehicles in, each vehicle was thoroughly checked by a BAR mechanic to ensure they were in perfect working order. The BAR mechanic then created a defect in each vehicle to see if the Shamas would actually repair the defect. On none of the three occasions was the actual problem fixed.

On the first occasion, Monadle Shama installed a wire to circumvent a sensor, rather than simply fixing the problem by reconnecting some pins which had been loosened by the BAR mechanic; he charged \$180.00 for this "repair". On the second visit, the only repair needed was reconnection of a wire. Instead, Monadle Shama charged \$401.00 for a new computer harness and then didn't actually replace the harness for which he billed. On the third occasion, Monadle Shama claimed the vehicle needed a complete tune-up, when in fact all that was needed was a reconnection of a sensor pin. He charged the undercover officer \$452.00 for the following "work": he disabled the "Check Engine" warning light by removing the light bulb contacts, he put in an incorrect sensor and he billed for replacing the fuel filter when he didn't actually replace it. The fuel filter had been replaced by BAR in preparation for the sting and had only 11 miles on it.

Mr. Shama's parents, Nayel Shama and Sabah Shama, pled no contest to false advertising. Each was placed on informal probation and fined \$1,000.00. They were ordered to pay restitution, as well. All three Shamas were ordered not to own or run an automotive repair or smog check business.

In Case No. 1240889, Monadle Shama took \$1,030.00 from a vehicle owner to repair the vehicle's transmission. Over the next several months, he kept putting the victim off, telling her he was waiting on parts. Finally, he "sold" the vehicle to an accomplice, thus completely depriving the owner of her vehicle. This case was investigated by California Department of Motor Vehicles Investigator Sean Cook.

In Case No. 1241610, Monadle Shama stole the credit card number of one of his customers and then used the number to make over \$2,000.00 in fraudulent purchases. This case was investigated by Detective Adam Messer of the Modesto Police Department.

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