



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen

Alan Cassidy

Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 10, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Esteban Guadalupe Montanez Cervantes

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Esteban Guadalupe Montanez Cervantes, age 38, of Turlock, was convicted of auto theft. Cervantes is currently on probation following convictions for petty theft stemming from a January 2008 conviction and possession of stolen property stemming from a September 2005 conviction. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on May 23, 2009 when Cervantes stole a 2001 red Chevy Tahoe SUV from a driveway. The victim had left her vehicle warming up but unattended while she briefly went back inside her home to get her kids before leaving for their soccer game. Cervantes was arrested while driving the vehicle about a week later in Tuolumne County.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Cervantes to two years in prison. .

The District Attorney's Office urges residents not to leave their vehicles running while unattended no matter how briefly.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

###