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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 1, 2009
Re: People v. Joseph Gama

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joseph Gama, age 34, of Patterson, was convicted on September 1, 2009 of second degree burglary. Deputy District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on March 26, 2009 in the city of Turlock. Gama entered Golf USA located on West Monte Vista Avenue and grabbed a golf bag containing golf clubs that was located near the front entrance of the business. He then left the store with the merchandise without paying for it. The approximate value of the property taken was \$2500. Gama got into a waiting car that sped away at a high rate of speed. The store owner of Golf USA followed the vehicle in his own car and called 911 to report the theft. The vehicle was eventually stopped by deputies of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. Gama was arrested after the traffic stop and the merchandise was recovered and returned to the store owner.

Upon entry of the no contest plea, the Honorable Timothy W. Salter sentenced Gama to two years in state prison.

Mr. Gama also pled guilty to misdemeanor Domestic Violence in another case and was sentenced to 180 days in the county jail, to run concurrently with the state prison sentence. He had also previously pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance and had been receiving treatment pursuant to the deferred judgment program. That case was dismissed in light of the new convictions.

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