



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 3, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: PATRICK LEE GONZALEZ  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
11 years, 8 Months Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Patrick Lee Gonzalez, age 20, of Modesto, was sentenced on March 5, 2009 to eleven years and eight months in state prison by the Honorable Scott Steffan. On December 22, 2008, Gonzales pled guilty to felony evading, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of stolen property, and admitted being out on bail on two separate cases when he committed the crimes in this case. Gonzalez also admitted three violations of probation on his auto theft cases. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The current case arose out of events which occurred on December 15, 2007 when Modesto Police Officer Randy Bolinger observed Gonzalez in a silver Honda Civic traveling over 70+ MPH on McHenry Avenue. When the Officer activated his lights and siren to initiate a routine traffic stop, the defendant accelerated away by driving onto oncoming traffic and forcing vehicles to take evasive action to avoid a collision. Gonzalez ran the stop signs at Palm Avenue, Sunrise Avenue, Lucern Avenue, and Helen Avenue, until his vehicle became disabled due to a broken gearshift. Officer Bolinger located a loaded .40 caliber Glock handgun under the passenger seat. It had been reported stolen on March 23, 2007.

The two prior cases involved the charges of operating a chop shop, possession of four stolen vehicles, and felon in possession of a firearm.

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**

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