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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 20, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Michael Dwayne Hawkins  
Auto Thief/Burglar Sentenced to  
2 Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Dwayne Hawkins, age 27, of Ceres, was convicted of attempted possession of a stolen vehicle and residential burglary. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 3, 2008, Hawkins possessed a 2006 red Baja motorcycle that had been reported stolen out of Modesto in October 2007. Hawkins claimed that the motorcycle belonged to his younger brother.

On May 16, 2008 at around 10 a.m., Hawkins kicked in the front door of his friend's house and entered. While the house alarm was blaring, Hawkins and an accomplice removed a 46" flat screen TV from the residence and fled in an unknown vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Hawkins to two years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. This is Hawkins's first commitment to prison and first "strike" conviction under California's Three Strikes Law.

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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