



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: November 3, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Julian Luna Ornelas

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Drug Dealer Sentenced to 2 years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Julian Luna Ornelas, age 33, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of methamphetamine for sale, evading a peace officer, and resisting arrest. Ornelas had served a prior prison term stemming from an auto theft conviction from November 1994. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 1, 2009 at around 7:43 p.m. in the area of 9th Street and D Street in Modesto, an officer in a marked patrol car activated his lights and siren to perform a routine traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Ornelas. There was a male passenger in the front passenger seat. Ornelas continued to drive the vehicle at an extremely slow speed and appeared to be stuffing something under the seats. Ornelas continued to drive slowly on the shoulder and curbs of the street despite the pursuing patrol vehicle. Ornelas finally stopped the vehicle but would not cooperate with the officer and refused to show his hands. After numerous commands, Ornelas eventually got out of the car with his hands raised. Suddenly, Ornelas lunged back into the vehicle and appeared to be reaching for something. Ornelas was handcuffed shortly thereafter.

Inside the car, officers discovered that Ornelas had a police scanner capable of monitoring law enforcement communications, a digital scale, packaging material, and \$764 in various denominations. The officers also discovered six individually wrapped bindles of methamphetamine.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Ornelas to two years in state prison.

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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