



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County

832 12<sup>th</sup> 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

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: September 14, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jonathan Velasques Aguilar  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
Three Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jonathan Velasques Aguilar, age 25, of Modesto, was convicted on September 14, 2010 of auto theft, evading a peace officer, assault, and driving under the influence. Aguilar also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from April 2007 for which he served a term in prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 7, 2010 at about 8 p.m., in the area of Wayne Avenue in Modesto, Aguilar was observed driving a 2006 white Ford Explorer without his seat belt fastened. When the officer tried to perform a routine traffic stop, Aguilar accelerated away at over 60 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone failing to stop at several traffic signals. Dispatch notified the officer that the vehicle had been reported stolen that afternoon from the parking lot of the registered owner's business in Modesto. Aguilar proceeded to push another vehicle out of the way and drive onto southbound Highway 99 at speeds in excess of 100 m.p.h. After California Highway Patrol Officers placed spike strips in Aguilar's path of travel, his vehicle came to a stop near West Atwater Boulevard. Aguilar tried to run, but was caught a short distance away. Officers observed that Aguilar was under the influence of methamphetamine.

The Honorable Linda McFadden sentenced Aguilar to three 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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