



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th 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

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 10, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Charles Houston Blalock
Auto Thief Sentenced to
Five Years, Four Months

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Charles Houston Blalock, age 36, of Modesto, was convicted on March 10, 2010 of possession of a stolen vehicle, failure to appear, and resisting arrest. Blalock also admitted a prior felony conviction that falls under California's "Three Strikes" law from April 1998 for battery causing serious bodily injury. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 30, 2009 at approximately 5:00 p.m. in the area of Crater Avenue in Modesto, Blalock was one of four people next to a parked 1994 black Lexus ES300 that had been reported stolen at around 10:00 a.m. that morning out of Turlock. After Blalock was contacted by police, they discovered that he had the key to the stolen Lexus in his pocket. The vehicle registration was located nearby on the ground. After being arrested, Blalock bailed out of custody.

On October 14, 2009, Blalock failed to appear for one of his court dates. The judge issued a bench warrant for his arrest. On December 10, 2009 at approximately 2:30 p.m., deputies observed Blalock in the area of Oakdale Road and Patterson Road in Riverbank. When deputies tried to contact Blalock, he ran until he was apprehended a short distance away.

The Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Blalock to five years and four months in 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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