



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 18, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Vinod Navnit Panchal
Auto Thief Sentenced to
3 Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Vinod Navnit Panchal, age 33, of Modesto, was convicted on March 18, 2010 of auto theft and resisting arrest. Panchal also admitted having served a prior prison term for possession of methamphetamine from December 2006 and for which he was still on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 25, 2010 at around 11:30 p.m., at an apartment complex on East Orangeburg Avenue in Modesto, the owner of a 1990 green Acura Integra heard Panchal stealing his car from the owner's designated carport. He called 911 and a Modesto police officer on routine patrol happened to be near the apartment complex at the time dispatch broadcast the report. When the officer tried to perform a traffic stop, Panchal immediately pulled into a mobile home park and jumped out of the. Panchal was arrested a short distance away after a police K-9 named Kai located Panchal trying to hide.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Panchal 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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