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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 21, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Billy Lee Sexton Jr
Auto Thief Sentenced to
2 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Billy Lee Sexton Jr, age 26, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle and resisting arrest. The defendant also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from November 2003. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 4, 2009 at approximately 6:30 p.m. at a residence on Fort Henry Drive in Modesto, police officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance between Sexton and his ex-girlfriend. Sexton also had a warrant out of the Ripon Police Department. When officers arrived, Sexton ran inside the house and hid in the attic ignoring officers' commands to come down. Finally, Sexton was apprehended when a police canine, Max, located Sexton hiding in the attic. According to witnesses at the scene, Sexton arrived in a 1990 blue Chevy C15 pick-up truck that was reported stolen two days earlier from the owner's driveway in Modesto. Officers also observed damage to the steering wheel column.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Sexton 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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