



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: June 3, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Shane Valencia Thomas
Auto Thief Sentenced to
3 Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Shane Valencia Thomas, age 22, of Modesto, was convicted on June 3, 2010 of possession of a stolen vehicle, auto burglary, auto theft, and resisting arrest. Thomas is currently on probation for possession of a firearm from January 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 22, 2010 at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the area of Colorado Avenue in Modesto, Thomas was a passenger in a 1995 black Honda Civic that had been reported stolen on February 18, 2010 out of a parking lot at the Modesto Junior College while the victim was attending class. After performing a traffic stop, the officer observed that there was a shaved key in the ignition. Inside Thomas's pocket, the officer found another shaved key. Thomas stated that his friend picked him up in the car and that he knew the car was stolen but he wanted to ride in it anyway. After being arrested, Thomas posted bail for his release from custody.

On March 14, 2010 at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the area of Westmont Court in Modesto, an alert homeowner called the police after he observed Thomas prowling in his neighbor's backyard. After the police contacted Thomas, they found a car registration, Gummy Bears, and Valentine's Day candy in Thomas's pocket. These items were previously inside a parked car in the front of the neighbor's home. Thomas denied taking the items. After being arrested, Thomas posted bail for his release from custody.

On April 7, 2010 at approximately noon in the area of Briggs Avenue and Seybold Avenue in Modesto, officers from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed

Thomas driving a 1989 teal Toyota Camry that had been reported stolen on March 28, 2010 out of Modesto. The officers followed Thomas until he stopped and parked the car. When the officers attempted to contact Thomas outside the stolen vehicle, Thomas tried to run but was caught a short distance away.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Thomas 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

#