



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) 558-4027

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen

Alan Cassidy

Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: April 27, 2011

Re: Tony Anthony Garcia

**Auto Thief Gets
4 Years, 8 Months**

Contact: Carol Shipley

Assistant District Attorney

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Tony Anthony Garcia, age 29, of Modesto, was convicted on April 27, 2011 of auto theft and possession of stolen property. Romero also admitted a prior conviction for auto theft and possession of heroin from January 2002 for which he served a term of imprisonment. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 19, 2011 at approximately 1:30 a.m. in the area of Tully Road and Glenwood Drive in Modesto, an officer observed Garcia driving a 1996 gold Honda Accord with a burnt out tail light. The officer then performed a routine traffic stop and discovered that Garcia's driver's license was suspended. While speaking with Garcia, the officer was informed by dispatch that the license plates on the Accord were reported as being stolen from another vehicle. The officer then checked the Accord's vehicle identification number and learned that the car had been stolen out of the owner's driveway on Fallen Oak Court in Modesto on April 14, 2011. The officer also noticed that the ignition was damaged. Garcia claimed that a friend gave him the car but that he had no name or contact information for his friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Garcia to four years and eight months in the California Rehabilitation Center.

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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