



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: April 25, 2011

Re: Juan Cervantez Romero

Auto Thief Gets
2 Years, 8 Months Prison

Contact: Carol Shipley

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Juan Cervantez Romero, age 39, of Porterville, CA was convicted on April 25, 2011 of auto theft. Romero also admitted a prior conviction for robbery from November 1990 out of Los Angeles County a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 27, 2010 at approximately 5:00 a.m. in the area of Howard Road and Frank Cox Road near I-5, an officer was traveling behind a 1994 teal green Dodge Dakota pick-up truck being driven by Romero. The officer then observed Romero drift to the right and leave the roadway, entering a muddy agricultural field before coming to a stop. The officer pulled behind Romero’s vehicle to check on his welfare. The officer then observed that part of the vehicle ignition had been removed from the steering column. Romero did not have a driver’s license and stated that it was suspended. The officer called the registered owner who was not aware that Romero had just stolen the car out of his driveway in Ceres. Romero then claimed that earlier that morning he was taking a walk when a random person offered hm a ride, and eventually offered to let Romero use the vehicle to drive back to Porterville. Romero did not know the name of this random person and had no contact information for him.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Romero to two years and eight months 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