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For immediate release

Date: May 18, 2006

Re: Nathan Souza sentence

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Nathan Souza, 29, of Modesto, was sentenced to six years in prison for receiving a stolen car and receiving stolen property that was in the car. Defendant was scheduled to begin trial Monday, but instead chose to plead to all of the charges, admit a prior "strike" under California's Three Strikes law, and admit two previous prison commitments with a possible maximum sentence of 8 years in state prison.

Judge Edward M. Lacy sentenced Souza to the middle term of two years, doubled for the strike prior, with two one-year enhancements for his prior convictions.

The case arose out of events which occurred on November 2, 2005 in the city of Modesto. Mr. Souza was seen taking the seats out of 1992 Nissan in an alleyway. The registration to the car and the victim's driver's license were found in Mr. Souza's nearby home. When questioned by Modesto Police Department Officer Greg Granis, Mr. Souza conceded that he believed the car was stolen and that he was removing the seats.

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