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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: September 9, 2009

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Re: Justin Ray Brooks

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 4 Years

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Justin Ray Brooks, age 23, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft. Ruiz also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from October 2003. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on April 7, 2008 at approximately 2:00 p.m. in the area of Pecos Avenue and Herndon Road in Ceres. Ruiz was driving a 1989 blue Toyota Camry that had been reported stolen on March 24, 2008 out of Riverbank. After being stopped by a police officer, Brooks claimed that he borrowed the vehicle from a friend. The officer, however, observed that a shaved key had been used to start the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Brooks to four years 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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