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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact:

Carol Shipley

Date: July 31, 2009

Re: Raul Castro - Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years

Phone:

(209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Raul Castro, age 37, of Ceres, was convicted on July 31, 2009 of auto theft. Castro was already on probation for a prior conviction for possession of a controlled substance and was in the Proposition 36 drug treatment program. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred between December 5- 8, 2008 at the Woodside Apartments in Modesto when officers from the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCATT) received an anonymous tip that Castro was driving a 2004 tan Lincoln Aviator that was suspected to be stolen and parked it in one of the stalls at the complex. Officers discovered that the vehicle was, in fact, reported stolen out of San Jose on November 16, 2008. Officers found property that belonged to Castro inside of the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Castro to two years at 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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