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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: July 8, 2009

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Re: Daniel Joseph Herrera

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 3 years prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Daniel Joseph Herrera, age 28, of Turlock, pled guilty to auto theft and admitted having a prior auto theft conviction from April 2006. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on June 29, 2009 at approximately 11 a.m. in Modesto. Officers from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) received a tip that Herrera was trying to sell a 2004 black Lexus GS300 for \$700 that was in excellent condition. The car had been reported stolen two days earlier following a residential burglary. The victim had left the car keys inside the Lexus in his closed garage. Herrera claimed that he borrowed his friend's car at a party but that he decided not to return it.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Herrera to three years in state prison.

STANCATT officers urge citizens not to leave keys in their unattended vehicles even inside their garages.

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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