



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 28, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Joseph Vincent Park

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 16 Months in Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joseph Vincent Park, age 20, of Modesto, was convicted on August 28, 2009 of auto theft, evading a peace officer, possession of stolen property, and resisting arrest. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on two dates. On June 24, 2009 at around 1 p.m. in the area of McRitchie Way in Modesto, officers responded to a call of a trespasser in the caller's backyard. When officers contacted Park, who matched the description of the trespasser, they located in Park's possession a Downey High School class of 1977 men's ring, with the owner's initials engraved inside. The ring had been reported stolen the day prior on June 23, 2009. Park was released from custody after posting bail. The defendant was already on probation for an April 6, 2009 theft offense.

On July 6, 2009 at approximately 2 p.m. in the area of Quigley Avenue and Emerson Avenue in Modesto, Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force officers observed Park driving a 1991 blue Dodge Caravan that had been reported stolen that morning out of Modesto. When officers tried to perform a traffic stop, Park accelerated away at a high rate of speed by traveling approximately 60 m.p.h. in residential neighborhoods. Park then ignored the stop signs and traffic signals at Sunrise Avenue, Terrance Avenue, Athens Avenue and Gordon Avenue until he hit the curb, lost control and crashed. Park jumped out of the vehicle and ran, but was apprehended a short distance away.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Donald Shaver sentenced Park to sixteen 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

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