



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: July 31, 2009

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Re: David Leslie Thomas

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 16 Months in Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David Leslie Thomas, age 23, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle and resisting arrest. Thomas is currently on parole for receiving stolen property stemming from a September 2006 conviction. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on January 8, 2009 at around 7:00 a.m. Officers from the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCATT) were dispatched to a 1997 black Honda Civic that was abandoned in an alley by Roselawn Avenue and Sunset Avenue. The car had been reported stolen out of Modesto on January 3, 2009. When the officers arrived, they noticed that the car had been stripped of its seats, doors, bumpers, trunk and tires. They also noticed that there was a fluid trail from the stolen vehicle to a garage that runs off the alley several blocks away. In the garage, officers located the missing parts from the stolen vehicle. When the officers interviewed the resident, he admitted stealing the car while two of his friends followed in another car. Thomas was the passenger in the car following the stolen vehicle. While officers were interviewing the three suspects, Thomas started to hit one of his friends, disobeying the officer's commands to stop.

Thomas's two other friends have previously pled guilty to auto theft.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Thomas 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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