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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 23, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: David Diaz Mendoza  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
Sixteen Months in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David Diaz Mendoza, age 21, of Modesto, was convicted on March 23, 2010 of auto theft, evading a peace officer and resisting arrest. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 14, 2010, at around 10:30 p.m. in the area of Hatch Road and Stonum Drive in Ceres, Mendoza was observed stealing a 1992 green Honda Accord from the owner's driveway. The owner immediately called 911 to report the theft. Within seconds, officers located the vehicle and initiated their lights and siren to perform a traffic stop. Mendoza then accelerated away at over 65 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h. residential zone and failed to stop at several stop signs. During the pursuit, Mendoza hit a fire hydrant and sideswiped another car. Mendoza finally crashed the car, before trying to jump out of the car to run away. After being arrested, Mendoza claimed that he needed a ride so he "took" the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Mendoza 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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