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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact:

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Date: July 7, 2010

Re: Garland Terrell Norman, Jr.
Auto Thief Sentenced to
7 Years in Prison

Phone:

(209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Garland Terrell Norman, Jr., age 30, of Modesto, was convicted on July 7, 2010 of assault, auto theft, and commercial burglary. Norman was on parole for possession of a stolen vehicle from January 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 17, 2008 at approximately 9:00 a.m., Norman was caught by a homeowner trying to steal a white Chevy pick-up truck that was parked on the street in front of the owner's house. Norman was in the driver's seat and tampering with the truck's ignition when the victim surprised him. Norman then blurted out that he "didn't know this was your truck." The owner pulled Norman out of the vehicle. Norman picked up a tire iron and hit the owner in the stomach causing a slight bruise. Norman ran away. A fingerprint that was recovered from the truck matched Norman. Norman was later arrested and then failed to appear for court.

On December 26, 2009 at approximately 6:00 a.m. in the area of Oakdale Road in Modesto, an officer was dispatched to a report of a prowler at a mobile home park. When the officer arrived, he observed Norman sitting in the driver's seat of a parked 1995 black Honda Civic that had just been stolen out of Modesto. When Norman saw the officer's patrol car park behind him, he jumped out of the car and ran leaving behind his cell phone with his personal information and photos. A warrant was issued for Norman's arrest.

During the night of April 26, 2010, Norman burglarized the Modesto Symphony Orchestra located on 13th Street in Modesto and stole four I-Pod nano plastic cases, a Modesto Symphony Orchestra CD and a set of keys. A fingerprint that was recovered from inside the building matched Norman. He was later arrested and held in custody on all of the pending cases.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Norman to seven years 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