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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: June 20, 2011

Re: Heath Lee Roberson

Contact: Carol Shipley

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Heath Lee Roberson, age 36, of Modesto, was convicted on June 20, 2011 of two counts of auto theft, evading a peace officer, and resisting arrest. Roberson also admitted having served multiple prior prison terms as a result of convictions for grand theft in 1996 and 1999, possession of forged checks in September 2003, and commercial burglaries in 2004 and 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 25, 2011, Roberson went into an auto dealership in Manteca and used a forged identification and check to fraudulently purchase a 2010 gray Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up truck. Within hours, the dealership discovered that Roberson provided forged documents and called the police. On that same day, Roberson went into another auto dealership on McHenry Avenue and used the same forged documents to fraudulently purchase a 2006 black Land Rover Range Rover. That dealership also discovered that Roberson used forged documents and notified police.

On May 31, 2011 at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the area of Keller Street in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Roberson driving the Dodge Ram pick-up truck. When the officer tried to perform a traffic stop, Roberson accelerated away at over 85 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone, ignoring several stop signs, and failing to stop at several red traffic signals. As Roberson was crossing College Avenue, he collided with a parked car. Roberson then fled, jumped over a fence, and ran through an alley before he was caught.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Roberson 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**