



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 9, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Christopher Matthew Barrett
Auto Thief Sentenced to
5 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Christopher Mathew Barrett, age 31, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft and resisting arrest. Barrett also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from December 2000 as well as a conviction for residential burglary, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from October 1998 for which he served a term in prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on February 18, 2009 in the Airport District of Modesto when the defendant stole a 1954 black Ford pick-up truck from a used car lot on Yosemite Boulevard. The car lot owner and one of his mechanics observed Barrett drive off and immediately started to follow him while simultaneously calling the Modesto Police Department. Within minutes, officers caught up to the Ford pick-up. Barrett then stopped the car and jumped out, but was apprehended a short distance away. Barrett claimed that a friend told him to steal the truck in order to deduct \$100 from the debt he owed his friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Barrett to five 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

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