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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: March 20, 2009

Re: Samuel Martinez
Auto Thief Sentenced to
4 Years and 8 Months

Contact: Carol Shipley
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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Samuel Martinez, age 22, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle. The defendant also admitted a violation of probation on a prior felony conviction for burglary from September 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred at approximately 10 a.m. on March 10, 2009 in the parking lot of the Arrow Inn on S. 9th Street in Modesto. Martinez was in possession of a 1996 tan Honda Accord that was reported stolen out of Stockton on March 1, 2009. The defendant claimed he got the vehicle from a friend but had no other contact information for him.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Martinez to four years and eight months in the California Rehabilitation Center, a custodial facility that provides drug treatment.

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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