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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 23, 2009
Re: Michael Anthony Powell -
Thief Convicted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Anthony Powell, age 50, a transient, was convicted on April 23rd of petty theft with prior theft convictions, after a four-day jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Tracy M. Roland prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on February 21, 2008. The defendant entered the Ceres K-Mart and went to the tool/do-it-yourself department of the store where he concealed bolt cutters inside his jacket. The K-Mart loss prevention agent observed this occurrence over the store's closed circuit video system. The defendant left the store without paying for the merchandise. The loss prevention agent attempted to stop the defendant outside the store and a struggle ensued. Ceres police arrived and the defendant was eventually taken into custody. The loss prevention agent recovered three bolt cutters from inside the defendant's jacket.

The Honorable Thomas D. Zeff set sentencing for May 20, 2009.

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