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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 3, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Anthony Robert Lugo  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
4 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Anthony Robert Lugo, age 40, of Modesto, was convicted on August 3, 2010 of auto theft and resisting arrest. Lugo also admitted a prior conviction for battery causing serious bodily injury, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from May 1997. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On July 26, 2010 at around 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot of America’s Best Inn on McHenry Avenue in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Lugo parking a 1996 white Saturn sedan that was reported stolen that afternoon from a used car lot in Modesto. When the officer tried to perform a routine traffic stop, Lugo jumped out of the vehicle and ran. Lugo was apprehended a short distance away when he couldn’t jump over a fence. Lugo claimed that he borrowed the car from a friend but that he didn’t have any contact information for this friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Lugo to four 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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