



OFFICE OF THE
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Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: November 24, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jerome Smith
Auto Thief Gets 7 Years, 4 Months

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jerome Smith, age 31, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft, resisting arrest, failure to appear in court and an out on bail enhancement. Smith also admitted a violation of probation stemming from a May 2009 conviction for possession of ecstasy, and possession of marijuana while in the county jail. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 15, 2010 at around 12:30 a.m. in the area of 7th Street and Crows Landing Road in Modesto, a deputy observed Smith driving a 2001 green GMC Yukon that had been reported stolen on February 6, 2010. The registered owner had called the police after his vehicle was stolen from the parking lot of the Budget Motel in Modesto. The owner admitted that he was with a prostitute in a room when his car was taken. When the deputy activated his lights and siren to perform a routine traffic stop, Smith quickly stopped the vehicle, jumped out, and ran. Smith was located a short distance away by an assisting officer's canine, Bass.

On March 24, 2010, Smith failed to show up for his court date. After a bench warrant was issued, Smith was arrested on April 20, 2010 when he was a passenger in another stolen vehicle being driven by his friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Timothy Salter sentenced Smith to seven years and four months 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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