



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 21, 2009

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Re: Paul Ray Taylor

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 3 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Paul Ray Taylor, age 21, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft, evading a peace officer, second degree burglary, and resisting arrest. The defendant also admitted a serving a prior prison term stemming from a December 2006 conviction for assault and for which he is currently on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on two dates. On October 24, 2009 at around 11 p.m. in the area of Crows Landing Road and Amador Road in Modesto, a Sheriff's deputy observed Taylor driving a 1995 green Saturn that was reported stolen earlier that day in Modesto. When the deputy activated his lights and siren to perform a traffic stop, Taylor accelerated away at speeds of 60 mph in 25 mph residential areas while ignoring stop signs at intersections. Taylor finally crashed into a parked car and jumped out of the vehicle, leaving his passenger behind. Taylor was able to run away. A warrant for his arrest was issued.

On November 7, 2009 at approximately 10 a.m. on Lombardy Drive in Modesto, the owner of a 1990 white Honda Accord reported that his car stereo was stolen out of his vehicle. A police officer was able to locate a finger print on the driver's side door window. This fingerprint was later determined to be from Taylor.

Later that day at approximately 2 p.m., Taylor went into the Corporate Wireless store on Paradise Road in Modesto to sell a cell phone that had been stolen at around noon from the Carpenter branch of the Corporate Wireless store. The store employees then called the police. When officers arrived, Taylor ran from the store only to be arrested a short distance away. Taylor claimed a friend gave him the cell phone but that he had no contact information for this friend. Taylor also stated that he was going to sell the phone to buy methamphetamine.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Taylor to three 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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