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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: June 13, 2011

Re: Clyde Walter Retzlaff
Auto Thief Gets
4 Years Prison

Contact: Carol Shipley
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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Clyde Walter Retzlaff, age 37, a transient, was convicted on June 13, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle and resisting arrest. Retzlaff also admitted a prior “strike” conviction for residential burglary in August 2002. Retzlaff had previously served a prison term for auto theft and possession of methamphetamine from December 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On New Year's Day, January 1, 2011 at approximately 2:30 p.m., an officer received a tip that people were stripping a green Honda Civic in the area of North Santa Barbara Avenue near Yosemite Avenue in Modesto. When the officer arrived, several people dispersed, including Retzlaff, leaving behind a 1996 green Honda Civic that had been reported stolen from the owner's driveway on Camellia Way in Modesto the day before. The Civic had its hood up and part of its engine removed. After a short foot pursuit, Retzlaff was caught.

The Honorable Dawna Frenchie Reeves sentenced Retzlaff 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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