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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 14, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Phillip Dell Killough, Jr.

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 years, 8 months prison

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Phillip Dell Killough, Jr, age 28, of Modesto, was convicted of residential burglary, evading a peace officer, and possession of a stolen vehicle. Killough had been on parole following his release from prison as a result of a June 2006 conviction for possession of controlled substances while in the Stanislaus County jail. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 13, 2009 at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the area of Meadow Lark Lane and Olive Avenue in Turlock, an officer on routine patrol observed a juvenile female sitting in the passenger seat of a vehicle parked in an alleyway next to an open gate to the backyard of a home. The juvenile claimed she was waiting for a friend but had no contact information for this friend. Being skeptical of the juvenile's story, the officer then discovered that the home had just been burglarized. Although no property was taken, there was a pillow case full of items that was left in the living room. The juvenile then admitted that Killough drove to the alleyway to burglarize the home, and that he ran away when he saw the officer talking to the juvenile. A warrant of arrest was issued for Killough.

On February 21, 2009 at approximately 3:00 a.m. in the area of Fulkerth Road and Tegner Road in Turlock, an officer observed Killough driving a vehicle. When the officer activated his lights and siren to initiate a traffic stop, Killough accelerated away running the stop signs at Fulkerth Road and Faith Home Road with speeds approaching 100 m.p.h. Killough then stopped the vehicle and fled on foot. Another warrant of arrest was issued for Killough.

On March 30, 2009 at approximately 5:00 p.m. in the area of Crater Avenue in Modesto, Killough was one of four passengers in a stopped vehicle that had recently left Killough's friend's house. At Killough's friend's house, officers located a 1994 black Lexus ES300 that had been reported stolen at around 10:00 a.m. that morning out of Turlock. One of the passengers possessed the key to the stolen Lexus, while another passenger tried to throw away the stolen vehicle registration of the Lexus out the car window.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Killough to two years and eight 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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