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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: February 24, 2009  
Re: Gabriel Martinez-Auto Thief  
Sentenced to 16 months prison

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gabriel Jose Martinez, age 33, of Riverbank, was convicted of attempted auto theft. The defendant also admitted a prior felony conviction for a residential burglary from November 1996 which falls under California’s “Three Strikes” law. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on February 15, 2009 when Martinez attempted to take his aunt’s 1999 silver Chevy Silverado pick-up truck two days after his release from prison.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Hurl Johnson sentenced Martinez to sixteen 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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