

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***  
**DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN  
ATTEMPTED CHOP SHOP OPERATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 16, 2016**

**CONTACT: Nina Sandhu, Deputy District Attorney  
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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that Ronald Moon, age 33 of Salinas, CA, was sentenced today to 3 years 6 months state prison on charges of attempting to operate a chop shop in Salinas and for a violation of his previously imposed probationary terms where he was in possession of 42 tires stolen from Seaside auto plaza dealerships. A chop shop is any location where a person is engaged in altering, destroying, disassembling, or storing a motor vehicle known to have been obtained illegally in order to sell or dispose of the parts or to otherwise alter, deface or destroy vehicle identification information.

On April 2, 2016 at approximately 3:48 a.m., Salinas police observed a tow truck loading a Chevy Avalanche truck with no wheels and a partially stripped interior in the area of Lake and N. Main Street in Salinas. After confirming the 2008 Avalanche had been reported stolen, the police pulled over the tow truck in the vicinity of Rossi and N. Davis Rd. While the tow truck driver stopped and complied with the police, Mr. Moon, the passenger, took off running through the strawberry fields. He was caught lying face down in a ditch.

In April of 2014, Mr. Moon was placed on felony probation for possession of the 42 tires stolen from BMW, Jaguar and Gold Coast dealerships.

Chop Shops are not uncommon in Monterey County. The District Attorney's Office-Economic Vehicle Theft Unit works in conjunction with the Monterey County Sheriff's Department Multi-Agency Detail for Commercial Auto Theft (MADCAT) in locating chop shops throughout the County. Members of the public having information about possible chop shops are encouraged to report what they know to MCSO Detective Arras Wilson at 831-755-7279, CHP Investigator Chuck Rodriguez at 755-3818, DA Investigator Maribel Torres-Hart at 831-883-7588 or District Attorney's Office Fraud Hotline at 831-755-3224.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Officer Zachary Dunagan.