

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **AROMAS MAN RECEIVES 6 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR EVADING POLICE AND CAR THEFT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 30, 2016  
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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on June 30, 2016, Christopher Markert, age 25, a resident of Aromas CA, was sentenced by Judge Andrew Liu to six years and eight months in state prison for multiple counts of evading an officer, car theft and attempted car theft. In addition to the felony charges, Markert also pleaded guilty to the enhancement of a prior auto theft conviction.

On November 18, 2015 at approximately 3:08 pm, officers attempted to stop Markert who was driving a stolen Acura SUV with paper plates. Markert, instead of stopping, started to drive quickly and aggressively onto Highway 1 at a very high rate of speed. He exited onto Crazy Horse Road where he crossed over double yellow lines and collided with a Lincoln Navigator breaking the Navigator's side mirror. Markert fled the scene without stopping.

On December 8, 2015 law enforcement observed Markert drive into the Northridge Shopping Center in a stolen Honda. They then saw Markert prowling the parking lot attempting to open the door of another parked Honda. As undercover officers approached in their unmarked vehicle, Markert entered his stolen Honda and began to drive away. Officers activated their sirens and emergency lights and attempted to block Markert but he was able to maneuver around them leaving the scene at a high rate of speed. On December 10, 2015 officers were able to track Markert down in Watsonville where he attempting to steal yet another Honda car. He once again tried to elude the police, this time on foot, but was quickly arrested.

Vehicle theft is widespread 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 investigating and deterring vehicle theft throughout the County. Members of the public having information about possible vehicle theft are encouraged to report what they know to DA Investigator Maribel Torres-Hart at 831-883-7588 or the District Attorney's Office Fraud Hotline at 831-755-3224, or CHP Detective Chuck Rodriguez at 831-755-3818 or MCSO Detective Arras Wilson at 831-755-7279.

This case was investigated by MADCAT Officers Aras Wilson, MCSO, Chris Browning, CHP and Maribel Torres, District Attorney Investigator.