

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **MARINA WOMAN RECEIVES PRISON TIME FOR STEALING CARS AND EVADING POLICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that Samantha Tomasini, 26, of Marina, CA, was sentenced today to 4 years 4 months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for vehicle theft and evading a police officer by the Honorable Larry Hayes. Tomasini pleaded guilty to two counts of vehicle theft, one count of evading the police and one count of illegal possession of ammunition.

On June 29, 2016 at 10:00 am, Salinas Police spotted a 2011 Mercedes C300 parked but occupied by a driver, later identified as Tomasini, on Industrial Street in Salinas. The police determined the Mercedes had been reported stolen and as they pulled in behind the Mercedes, Tomasini accelerated rapidly away from the patrol car. Tomasini ran six stop signs and reached speeds of up to 100 mph on John Street, 70 mph on Skyway Blvd. and 60 mph in the parking lot at 1000 E. Alisal where Foods Co. is located. The Mercedes' front tire ultimately blew out causing Tomasini to lose control of the car and crash it.

On August 23, 2016, Salinas police located a stolen Mazda that video recorded Tomasini driving on an earlier occasion. When police searched a nearby motel room, police found Tomasini in unlawful possession of ammunition, prohibited because of her prior criminal convictions.

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 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.

These cases were investigated by Salinas Police Officer Steven Hoyte, Jacky Bohn, Manuel Lopez, Scott Sutton, and Jared Dominci.