

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FORMER PALO ALTO RESIDENT IS RESENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR VEHICLE THEFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Dominic Garcia, age 39, a former resident of Palo Alto, California and an inmate of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), pled no contest to a felony charge of taking or driving a stolen vehicle and admissions to enhancements for serving prior prison terms. Upon the plea, Judge Andrew G. Liu sentenced Garcia to 4 years in CDCR to be served consecutively to his November 2017 sentence of 11 years 8 months for felony violations of the same offense and other charges. His total commitment is now for 15 years, 8 months

Garcia has the numbers 10851 tattooed on his fingers which is the code section for stolen vehicles. On November 22, 2017, he was sentenced for several cases of vehicle theft and failure to submit to the law enforcement traffic stop procedure leading law enforcement on high speed chases endangering the public. In the current case Garcia was on videotape stealing a Ford F450 from a local equipment rental company.

The case was investigated by MADCAT- Monterey County Sheriff's Office Detective Ken Owen and California Highway Patrol Detective Chuck Rodriguez, Watsonville Police Department Detective Eddie Santana and Officer Mario Galvez, Salinas Police Department Officers Michael Muscutt and Anthony Yates, and District Attorney Investigator Maribel Torres-Hart.

Auto Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft are not uncommon in Monterey County and are serious problems in this county and nationwide resulting in billions of dollars lost every year. As a result, insurance rates are increased to cover these costs. The District Attorney's Office-Auto Insurance Fraud Unit works in conjunction with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office MADCAT Unit in investigating auto theft, fraudulent auto body shops, and other fraudulent automobile activities throughout the county. Members of the public having information about possible theft activities and/or possible insurance fraud are encouraged to report what they know to MCSO Detective Ken Owen at (831)755-7279, CHP Detective Chuck Rodriguez at (831) 755-3818, DA Investigator Maribel Torres-Hart at (831) 883-7588 or the District Attorney's Fraud Hotline at (831)755-3224.