

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN RECEIVES FIVE YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR VEHICLE THEFT AND EVADING POLICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 4, 2015**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jeffrey McCormick, age 42, a resident of Salinas, was sentenced by Judge Carrie Panetta to five years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for multiple instances of vehicle theft and one count of evading a police officer. On September 22, 2015, McCormick pled guilty to three counts of vehicle theft, an enhancement for having been previously convicted of vehicle theft and evading a police officer.

On December 21, 2014, Salinas police officers saw McCormick driving a stolen car in the Kmart parking lot. Following a stop of the vehicle, officers found a shaved key had been forced into the ignition to start it.

On January 21, 2015, tourists reported a backpack had been stolen from their rental van between Carmel and Big Sur. The sheriff deputy who responded to the theft call saw a car that had been involved in other vehicle thefts in which McCormick was the prime suspect. The deputy immediately attempted to catch up with the car which had been confirmed as stolen, however, was unable to do so due to the high speed of the stolen car. He later spotted the stolen car at Garrapata State Beach Park and located the tourist's backpack inside. After a 3-hour extensive search, McCormick was found hiding in the nearby brush.

On February 22, 2015, a deputy sheriff in Castroville caught McCormick once again driving a stolen car. He was found with multiple keys to several different car makes, some of which were altered with the express purpose to steal cars.

These cases were investigated by Salinas Police Officer Justin Salinas, Monterey County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Deputies Mike Smith, Arras Wilson, Matthew Costa and District Attorney Investigator Maribel Torres.

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 Office 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 District Attorney Investigator Maribel Torres-Hart at 831-883-7588, the District Attorney's Office Fraud Hotline at 831-755-3224, CHP Detective Chris Browning at 831-755-3818 or MCSO Detective Arras Wilson at 831-755-7279.