



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2018

PROLIFIC CAR THIEF MIKHAEL PALMER CONVICTED AGAIN OF NUMEROUS AUTO THEFT, BURGLARY, AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES

Mikhael Thomas Palmer (33, of Fresno), has been convicted again of numerous auto theft related offenses in two (2) separate cases, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

On March 6, Mr. Palmer pleaded "no contest" in one case to:

1. A felony count of Unlawful Driving or Taking a Vehicle [V.C. § 10851(a)];
2. A felony count of Receiving Stolen Property [P.C. § 496d(a)];
3. A felony count of Attempted Unlawful Driving or Taking a Vehicle [V.C. § 664/10851(a)];
4. Two (2) felony counts of Second Degree Vehicle Burglary [P.C. § 459/460(b)];
5. Three (3) misdemeanor counts of Receiving Stolen Property [P.C. § 496(a)]; and
6. A misdemeanor count of Possession of Burglar's Tools [P.C. § 466]

In a second case, Mr. Palmer also pleaded "no contest" to:

1. A felony count of Unlawful Driving or Taking a Vehicle [V.C. § 10851(a)]; and
2. A felony count of Receiving Stolen Property [P.C. § 496d(a)];

Additionally, Mr. Palmer admitted in both cases of having a prior "Strike" conviction for Residential Burglary in 2011, as well as prior convictions for Attempted Burglary in 2005, Possession of Stolen Property in 2006, Auto Theft in 2007, Auto Theft in 2008, and Auto Theft in 2015.

As a result of the convictions, Mr. Palmer faces a maximum sentence of seventeen (17) years and four (4) months in State Prison. However, due to a judicial indicated sentence, he will be sentenced to eleven (11) years and four (4) months at his Sentencing Hearing on April 26, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 33 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

At the time of the current offenses, Mr. Palmer had been released early from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as a "Non-Violent Second Striker." He had been serving a four (4) year sentence for his 2015 convictions for Auto Theft, Receiving Stolen Property, and Providing False Information to a Peace Officer.

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Mr. Palmer was on the Fresno Police Department's Career Criminal Auto Theft Team's (CCATT) list of the Top 5 Auto Thieves in Fresno. Prior media coverage on the Top 5, including Mr. Palmer, can be found at:

<http://abc30.com/news/fresno-pd-keeping-close-eye-on-top-car-thieves-in-effort-to-get-auto-thefts-to-record-low/1979005/>

The case was prosecuted by DDA Prathna Mehta of the Office's Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Unit.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4441 with questions.

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