



COUNTY OF YOLO  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**      Contact: Jonathan Raven, Chief DDA  
Date: September 3, 2010    jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

**Davis Man Convicted Car Burglary**

Woodland, CA – September 3, 2010- Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on September 2, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted 26-year-old Davis man, Roman Ibanez, of conspiring to burglarize a vehicle, resisting arrest and possession of burglary tools.

At approximately 11:00 pm on July 27, 2009, Ibanez, a parolee from the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, and John Saenz and Valentin Buentello, were seen walking through an apartment complex parking lot in Davis. A resident of the apartment complex noticed the three men driving through the complex slowly and then walking around a back parking lot looking into numerous parked cars. Two of the three individuals had long metal objects partially wrapped in towels in their hands.

The apartment resident, who had been the victim of previous car burglaries, was suspicious and asked one of his roommates to accompany him to the parking lot. When both residents returned to the parking lot, Ibanez, Saenz and Buentello were still in the parking lot looking through car windows. The two residents spoke to the three and asked them if they were looking for someone. One of the three men said that they were looking for their “homie” as they all walked away. The three were then seen getting into an SUV in the parking lot. Believing that the three were in the parking lot to break into cars, the resident called the Davis Police Department.

Davis Police Department officers arrived and located the SUV driving within blocks of the apartment complex. As officers were conducting a traffic stop, and before the car had reached a complete stop, Ibanez opened the passenger door and ran. Saenz and Buentello stayed in the car.

Officers chased after Ibanez who was located hiding partially under a bush in a nearby apartment complex. When they found him, Ibanez had a pair of thin gloves in his pocket. In the SUV, officers located two more pairs of gloves, several sparkplugs and porcelain chips, three screwdrivers, large wrenches and two small lights.

During the trial the jury heard officers describe how porcelain spark plugs are frequently used to break car windows and screwdrivers are used to break car locks during car burglaries.

Ibanez was previously sentenced to state prison for threatening a witness, criminal street gang activity and car burglary. He was on parole at the time of these crimes and represented himself in the jury trial. Originally, Ibanez was represented by a Sacramento criminal defense attorney. Subsequently, he fired his attorney and chose to represent himself. Despite being urged by both Judge Janet Gaard and Judge Stephen Mock to accept appointed counsel or to again retain his own counsel, Ibanez chose to represent himself.

On Thursday afternoon the jury returned guilty verdicts on all charges. The jury also found that the defendant had served a prior prison term.

Earlier this summer, the co-defendants in this case pled no contest to various counts. Saenz was convicted of conspiracy to commit vehicle burglary as part of a plea deal that included three separate cases. Saenz agreed to be sentenced to four years in state prison. Saenz, who has a suspended state prison sentence in Butte County, will be sentenced before the Honorable Thomas Warriner on September 7, 2010. Buentello was convicted of possession of stolen property. Due to his lack of prior criminal record, he was granted probation.

Ibanez is facing a maximum of seven years in state prison. He will be back in court for sentencing by the Honorable Stephen Mock on October 1, 2010.

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