



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2016

THOMAS CUMMINGS TAKES ADVANTAGE OF A “JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OFFER” TO GET A REDUCED SENTENCE

Thomas Cummings, one of the two thieves who stole Retired Lieutenant Colonel Donald Klein’s classic 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air and 1966 Chevrolet El Camino, was sentenced today, June 29, 2016, pursuant to a judicial settlement offer in order to receive a reduced sentence.

The veteran’s classic cars were stolen from a barn on his farm near Kerman the night before Veterans Day 2015. The Fresno HEAT Team recovered both cars, returning them to their rightful owner, a week and a half after they were stolen.

Both Jennifer Carlton (38, of Kerman) and Thomas Cummings (34, of Fresno) were arrested and charged with the thefts, along with additional crimes. On June 1st, Defendant Cummings entered pleas of NO CONTEST to two felony counts of DRIVING OR TAKING OF A VEHICLE. He also admitted to having been previously convicted of a Strike (pursuant to the “Three Strikes Law”) for Robbery in 2001, as well as having been previously sentenced to State Prison for prior felony convictions on three (3) separate occasions.

Defendant Cummings was facing a potential sentence of nine (9) years and four (4) months in State Prison. However, pursuant to a judicial settlement offer reached between the defendant and the Judge, he was sentenced today to only five (5) years in State Prison. He will be eligible for early release in 2 ½ years pursuant to the “Non-Violent” Second Strike Release Program.

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions

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