



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2017

PROLIFIC FRESNO CAR THIEF SENTENCED TO LOCAL JAIL

Today, July 17, 2017, Hesham Mohammed Suleman, (35, of Fresno) was sentenced in Fresno County Superior Court for the felony crimes of Vehicle Theft and Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle. Due to Realignment, Mr. Suleman could not be sent to state prison and so was given 5 years "local" prison in the Fresno County Jail with 2 years Mandatory Supervised Release upon his release from jail.

On January 27, 2017, Mr. Suleman was arrested after stealing a vehicle in Fresno. Upon arrest, he was found to have used a "shaved" key but claimed he was too drunk to notice that the key had been shaved.

After a February 28, 2017 report of a stolen vehicle, the Fresno Police Department later located the vehicle and found that it had been stripped of parts and a different license plate affixed. During the investigation, latent fingerprints were found in the vehicle that were identified as those of Mr. Suleman. He was later arrested on this case in addition to a bench warrant issued in the previous case for failing to appear in court for sentencing.

Mr. Suleman has eight prior felony convictions for Vehicle Theft over the past eleven years. Overall, these cases represent his thirteenth and fourteenth felony convictions. He has served three previous prison terms and multiple probation and parole violations.

Deputy District Attorney Prathna Mehta prosecuted these cases with the assistance of the Fresno Police Department Career Criminal Auto Theft Team.

The media may e-mail FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559)600-4442 with questions.