



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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### Los Angeles Man Sentenced for Auto Theft

VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office announced today that Joel Quinonez (DOB 02/22/2001), of Compton, California, was sentenced on February 11, 2025, to 16 months in the Ventura County Jail for committing automobile theft. Quinonez previously pled guilty on January 13, 2025, to one felony count of auto theft.

Quinonez was a member of a ring of car thieves who stole multiple newer-model vehicles in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in October and November 2024. In all instances, the thieves were able to steal the vehicles by using tools to gain electronic access to unlock and operate the vehicles. Quinonez and a juvenile accomplice were arrested after conducting searches of their residences in Compton in November 2024.

Quinonez was on probation in Los Angeles County for felony grand theft auto at the time these offences were committed. The investigation was conducted by the East County Special Enforcement Unit of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, with assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Deputy District Attorney Katherine Plante, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, prosecuted the case.

“This sentencing sends a clear message: Organized crime targeting our community will not go unanswered,” Ms. Plante said. “Auto theft rings prey on hardworking families, disrupt local businesses, and fuel broader criminal activity. This outcome reflects the tireless work of law enforcement and our commitment to holding perpetrators accountable.”

**Case: 2024031264**

**Defendant Information:**

Joel Quinonez (DOB 02/22/01)

Compton

**Charges pled guilty to:**

- VC 10851(a) – Auto theft

