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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE**

February 24, 2015

GALVESTON – Today a jury convicted Prentis Venzant of the state jail felony offense of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

The victim testified that her vehicle was stolen from an apartment complex in Galveston. Detective Blackwell, with Galveston Police Department, was working on the case and discovered the defendant was stopped in the victim's car by an officer with Clear Lake Shores' Police Department for a traffic offense. The defendant did not have a valid driver's license so the car was towed and the defendant was released with a citation. Detective Blackwell testified that he viewed the in-car video of the traffic stop and recognized the defendant.

Venzant was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys T. Matthew Heermans and Beverly Armstrong in the 212th District Court, with Judge Patricia Grady presiding, and Winston Cochran representing the defendant. The defendant elected to have his punishment assessed by the Judge at a later date. There are two felony enhancements in the indictment so the range of punishment the defendant faces is between two and ten years in prison.

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