



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood

PHONE: (916) 554-2706

usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov

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TRACY “CHOP SHOP” OWNER PLEADS TO INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF STOLEN MOTORCYCLES

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that DARYL CHARLES, 43, of Tracy, California pleaded guilty today. The guilty plea was entered before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2312, Interstate Transportation of Stolen Vehicles.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the California Highway Patrol with assistance from the Tracy Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, the defendant knowingly sold stolen motorcycles and engines whose vehicle identification numbers and engine identification numbers he had filed or stripped away. In order to sell these motorcycles, CHARLES stamped a new number on the motorcycle frame or engine. On or about April 5, 2005, CHARLES sold a stolen 2002 Yamaha motorcycle through eBay to a customer in Iowa for \$5,900. This motorcycle was originally stolen in San Diego, California. At the time it was recovered in Iowa, the motorcycle VIN had been changed by CHARLES. The engine on the motorcycle had also been restamped with a new identification number.

That same year, CHARLES sold a 2004 Suzuki motorcycle to a person in Culver City, California for approximately \$5,000. The engine on this motorcycle was stolen.

In July 2007, Tracy Police received information that stolen motorcycle parts were being advertised on eBay by a person using the screen name “Booroe.” This person was later identified as CHARLES. Tracy Police conducted an undercover operation and purchased two stolen motorcycle parts from CHARLES. In the course of these transactions, officers exchanged several emails with “Booroe” where he identified himself as “Daryl Charles” and gave his home address in Tracy, California. After placing the winning bid, law enforcement received the stolen parts in the mail.

Tracy police searched CHARLES’s home on August 23, 2007. During the search, police found documents connected to the shipping of motorcycle parts to England, copies of Department of Motor Vehicle documents connecting CHARLES to stolen motorcycles, test print-outs of fraudulent federal certification labels (one of which matched a sticker found on a stolen motorcycle), as well as metal stamping equipment similar to what was used to stamp the fraudulent vehicle identification numbers on the stolen bikes. Found in CHARLES’s garage was

a stolen 2005 Yamaha R-1 motorcycle frame and engine. The police also found both of the cashier's checks that had been mailed to "Booroe" by the Tracy police during their undercover eBay purchases.

CHARLES is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Karlton on January 20, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of 18 U.S.C. §2312 is 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, and a three-year terms of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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