

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

MARINA WOMAN SENTENCED TO MAXIMUM TERM OF 10 YEARS FOR GROSS VEHICULAR MURDER CASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that Marina resident Kim Ngoc Nguyen, age 28, was sentenced by Judge Adrienne Grover to the maximum term of 10 years in prison after pleading no contest to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated for causing the death of Jeanette Martinez, age 20, of Greenfield.

On March 3, 2009, Ms. Nguyen, who had been drinking at Mortimer's Card Room in Marina, had been driven home from Mortimer's by a friend because of her level of intoxication. She then got into her sister's Toyota Camry and left the residence. Ms. Nguyen hit a parked car while backing out of the driveway, hit a curb on Brostom Drive, and moments later while driving on the wrong side of the road, she struck the right rear panel of a car and fled the scene. Ms. Nguyen continued on Imjin Parkway until she collided head-on with an Acura driven by Jeanette Martinez, who later died at the scene.

Ms. Nguyen's blood alcohol level was a .12% four hours after the incident. The defendant's driving that evening was particularly egregious. The People argued that this community has had too many fatalities due to drivers driving under the influence and they need to know that there are serious consequences.

Marina Police Department led the criminal investigation, assisted by District Attorney Investigator Allen Rowe.

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