

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FORMER RESIDENT OF CARMEL FOUND GUILTY OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: STEFANIE ZAMORA
(831) 759-6705

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that James Starnes, age 63, a former resident of Carmel, was found guilty by jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with 0.08 percent blood alcohol. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Vanessa Vallarta.

On December 29, 2012, James Starnes left a restaurant in Carmel around 9:20 PM. Carmel Police Officers noticed Starnes' vehicle as it made a wide left turn, almost striking a planter box and another parked car. Officers enforced a traffic stop and immediately could smell the odor of alcohol on Starnes' person. A DUI investigation was conducted and Starnes' blood alcohol level was .15%, almost twice the legal limit.

A jury found the defendant guilty of both charges. Judge Vallarta sentenced the defendant to 30 days in county jail and five years of probation. Officers Chris Johnson and Luke Powell of the Carmel Police Department investigated this matter.

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