

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS 4 MONTHS PRISON FOR KILLING HIS PASSENGER AND INJURING 2 OTHERS IN DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE COLLISION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 2, 2016**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on April 29, 2016, Diego Gonzalez-Rodriguez, a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to 9 years and 4 months in prison for driving under the influence of alcohol, causing one death and injuring two others. Gonzalez-Rodriguez was sentenced by Monterey Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler. He will serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

On May 6, 2015 at approximately 8:00 p.m., California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers responded to a citizen complaint and contacted the Gonzalez-Rodriguez and his friends drinking in front of a residence. While the officers noted the men were intoxicated, they concluded no crime had been committed. The officers told Gonzalez-Rodriguez and the men not to drive and left. At approximately 9:05 p.m., CHP responded to call of a fatal solo vehicle collision. Gonzalez-Rodriguez had ignored the officer's directions and drove with his friends in the vehicle. He lost control of his vehicle on Castroville Blvd., and caused his vehicle to roll over, killing one passenger and injuring two other passengers. Gonzalez-Rodriguez' blood alcohol level was a .15, almost twice the legal limit.

California Highway Patrol Officers William Milward, Charles Rodriguez, Michael Orta and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards conducted the investigation in this matter.

This case was presented by members of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Vertical Prosecution Unit. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.