

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

Salinas Man Found Guilty of His Second Driving Under the Influence Offense

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Ricardo Guzman, age 35, a resident of Salinas, was found guilty by jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and for using or being under the influence of a controlled substance. This was Guzman's second DUI conviction. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Hulsey.

On October 2, 2014, at around 12:42 a.m., Deputy Pinon from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office observed Guzman fail to stop for a stop sign located at Denner Road and San Juan Grade Road. Guzman smelled of alcohol, had red, watery eyes, and had poor balance. Officers Palma and Orta responded to the scene to conduct a DUI investigation. Salcedo submitted to a breath test which revealed he had a 0.07 percent breath alcohol level. Salcedo also submitted to a blood test which showed he had methamphetamine in his blood in addition to alcohol. The evidence at trial proved he had around three alcoholic drinks before driving. The Department of Justice criminalist Laura Lee, an expert in alcohol impairment, testified that everyone is impaired at a 0.08 percent blood alcohol level, even the more tolerant users of alcohol.

Guzman will be sentenced on May 11, 2016, by Judge Hulsey. He faces a maximum of two years in jail and five years of probation.

This case was presented by members of the 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.

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