

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **WATSONVILLE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF THIRD DUI**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on August 24, 2016, Pedro Hernandez, age 32, was found guilty by jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or more. This was Hernandez's third DUI conviction. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie E. Hulsey.

On May 8, 2016 at approximately 3:30 a.m., Hernandez drove his car northbound on Highway 1 near Moss Landing at a high rate of speed. He was unable to navigate a curve in the road, skidded out of control for two hundred and thirty three feet, crossed into the oncoming lane, and collided with a raised curb on the opposite side of the freeway. The impact sent his car airborne and it then rolled four or five times before coming to rest four hundred and thirty feet – well over the length of a football field - from the initial skid mark.

Despite sustaining numerous cervical spine fractures in the collision, Hernandez managed to extricate himself from the destroyed car and flee the scene. When officers contacted him later that morning, he denied driving and instead claimed that he was the victim of a hit and run while walking across the freeway. Hernandez ultimately submitted to a blood test, which showed that his blood alcohol level was .067% three hours after driving.

Judge Hulsey sentenced the defendant to three hundred and thirty days in jail, ordered him not to use or possess alcohol, and placed him on probation for five years.

The case was investigated by California Highway Patrol Detective Jaime Rios, currently assigned to the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Task Force (PRVNT).

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