

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **JURY CONVICTS SALINAS WOMAN OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Denise Maria Lavigne, age 58 of Salinas, was found guilty by a jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or greater.

On July 5, 2016, Monterey County Communications received a 911 call from Lavigne's common-law husband, who reported that she had been driving erratically and was under the influence of alcohol. When police arrived at the Wal-Mart shopping center on North Davis Road in Salinas, both Lavigne and her husband were outside of the vehicle on the curb. Lavigne admitted to the officers that she had been the driver, which was recorded on their department-issued, body-worn cameras. Her blood alcohol level was later determined to be .09/.10 percent.

At trial, Lavigne denied being the driver. Instead, her husband testified that he had driven the vehicle and falsely implicated Lavigne because they had been in an argument at the time.

The case was investigated by Officers Jeffrey Alford and Raul Rosales of the Salinas Police Department. Monterey Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler sentenced Lavigne to five years of informal probation, five days in jail, and ordered her to complete the driving under the influence first offender program.