

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

WATSONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DUI MANSLAUGHTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2017

**CONTACT: MEREDITH SILLMAN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
(831) 755-5261**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Steven Michael Brunk, age 57, of Watsonville, California, was sentenced to 8 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count of driving under the influence causing injury with an enhancement for causing great bodily injury for the August 11, 2016 collision that killed bicyclist, Alvin Earl Cruseturner. Brunk will have to serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole. Mr. Cruseturner's son and daughter attended the sentencing and addressed the court about their loss.

On August 11, 2016 at approximately 11:30 p.m., officers responded to the scene of a collision in the area of Salinas Road and Trafton Road. The defendant was driving home when he hit and killed the victim who was riding his bike. The California Highway Patrol conducted a DUI investigation and concluded the defendant was under the influence at the time of the collision, with a chemical test result showing the defendant at a .24, three times the legal limit. He admitted to consuming 2 beers but stated he felt fine to drive.

California Highway Patrol-Monterey Officers Thomas Carter, Richard Gamble 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.