

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

REPEAT DUI OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS IN PRISON

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that Francisco Napoles Medina of Watsonville, age 54, was sentenced by the Honorable Pamela L. Butler to seven years and six months to be served in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. This will constitute the defendant's fifth prison commitment for driving under the influence.

On April 11, 2017 the defendant was found guilty by a jury of felony driving under the influence of alcohol with three prior DUI convictions, two of which were felonies. The jury also found true that the defendant has served 4 prior prison terms for previous DUI convictions. According to court and other law enforcement records the defendant has at least 12 prior DUI convictions.

The jury trial finding that lead to this sentence originated on July 23, 2016 when officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop on the defendant because he was swerving on Alta Street in the City of Gonzales. When asked by officers the defendant refused to submit to field sobriety tests, a breath test as well as a blood test. Gonzales Police Officer Castillo authored a search warrant for the defendant's blood which was signed and approved by the Honorable Efren Iglesia. Despite the defendant's repeated attempts at refusing all chemical tests the search warrant allowed officers to collect the defendant's blood at Natividad Medical Center. His blood alcohol level was .171 four hours after driving.

This case was investigated by Gonzales Police Department Officer Cesar Castillo.

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.