

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

LAS LOMAS MAN SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS 4 MONTHS PRISON FOR COLLISION THAT KILLED 18 YEAR OLD WOMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Rafael Rangel, age 23 and a resident of Las Lomas, was sentenced today for the DUI collision which killed Dayazu Becerrario. Rangel was sentenced to 4 years 4 months in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for Driving under the Influence Causing Great Bodily Injury to the victim. He will serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

On August 6, 2016 Rafael Rangel picked up Ms. Becerrario for what was supposed to be their first date. They had met about fifteen days earlier. Rangel picked her up in Salinas and headed back to Las Lomas to go to dinner. He drank beer at his house before picking up Ms. Becerrario. Rangel continued to consume alcohol while driving the vehicle. As he drove towards Las Lomas he misjudged a turn in the road, launching his vehicle off a bridge landing the vehicle on its roof. Ms. Becerrario died at the scene. Rangel had major injuries and responders used the jaws of life to extract both him and Miss Becerrario from the vehicle. Numerous alcoholic beverages were scattered in and around the vehicle. Miss Becerrario had no alcohol in her system. The Defendant had a blood alcohol level of approximately .11.

During the sentencing Judge Culver expressed what a horrible tragedy this was, which impacted all the victim's family members. She presides over too many tragic cases and people in the community need to realize how getting behind the wheel of the car after consuming alcohol puts everyone on the road at risk and can devastate a family.

Salinas Office of the California Highway Patrol Officers Brandon Rodgers, Rick Gamble, and Monterey County District Attorney Investigators Terri Edwards conducted the investigation and arrest in this incident.

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.