

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

MONTEREY MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRIVING WITH A BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL ABOVE .08%.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Crystal Vasalech, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5264**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on November 15, 2017, Juan Carlos Abrajan-Torralba, age 28, was found guilty of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a blood alcohol level above a .08%. Monterey County Superior Court Judge Elisabeth K. Mineta presided.

On May 8, 2017 at approximately 12:45 a.m., Seaside Police Officer Silonzochilt saw Abrajan-Torralba stopped in the middle of the road, lean out his head out of the door, and then drive away. As he was turning onto Fremont Boulevard, the officer saw Abrajan-Torralba fail to stop at a stop sign and pulled him over. When speaking with the officer Abrajan-Torralba showed the objective signs and symptoms of intoxication and admitted to drinking four beers prior to driving.

Field sobriety tests showed Abrajan-Torralba was under the influence of alcohol while he was driving. A breath test taken just 35 minutes after the officer initially saw him stopped in the middle of the road showed his blood alcohol level was 0.15 and 0.16 percent. Defense asserted that Abrajan-Torralba's blood alcohol level was rising, although the officer noted that Abrajan-Torralba did not appear to become more intoxicated during his investigation.

Judge Mineta sentenced Abrajan-Torralba to 5 days in the Monterey County jail and placed him on probation for five years.

Seaside Police Officer Jose Silonzochilt investigated this case.

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