

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Gabriel Rodriguez Lopez, age 34, was convicted of and sentenced for driving under the influence with numerous priors.

On November 8, 2017, Salinas Police Officers were dispatched to an unresponsive driver who was slumped over the steering wheel in the middle of the intersection of E. Laurel and Natividad. During their investigation, Lopez admitted consuming alcohol and provided a breath sample of a .22, nearly triple the legal limit. Lopez was already on felony probation for a 2014 case for driving under the influence.

Lopez has a long record of driving under the influence which includes four prior convictions for driving under the influence in Monterey and Ventura Counties, including one prior felony conviction.

Today, Gabriel Rodriguez Lopez was sentenced by Judge Carrie Panetta to the middle term of two years in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Salinas Police Officers S. Raj and J. Santiago conducted the investigations and arrests 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.