

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CAUSING GREAT BODILY INJURY AND HIT AND RUN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Horacio Aguilar Alcantar, age 41 and a resident of Salinas, was convicted of driving under the influence causing injury and driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher causing injury with the special enhancements of great bodily injury and that he injured multiple victims. The jury also found the defendant guilty of hit and run causing serious permanent injury. A jury reached its verdict on March 2, 2018, after a one-week jury trial. Judge Andrew Liu presided.

The testimony and physical evidence established that the on July 16, 2016, Salinas police officers responded to a multi-vehicle collision on San Juan Grade Road in the city of Salinas, California. Officers observed two vehicles involved in the collision; a black Chevy Silverado and a silver Chevy Malibu. The driver of the Silverado had fled the scene. There were two victims in the Malibu. The driver of the Malibu was unresponsive and had to be extracted from the vehicle by the jaws of life. Multiple witnesses at the scene identified the Driver having multiple tattoos on his head, including a RAIDERS tattoo. The defendant is the registered owner of the Silverado vehicle.

Officers went to the defendant's house which was listed on the registration paperwork found in the Silverado. The defendant who was located at his residence, showed multiple signs of impairment and matched the description given by the witnesses. He was suspected of being under the influence and a blood test confirmed he had a .18 blood alcohol content, over two times the legal limit.

The victim had life threatening injuries included numerous fractures to the face, brain trauma with skull fracture and loss of consciousness. The victim is paralyzed from the neck down, he can no longer talk and will spend his life in a wheelchair.

Salinas police officers, the CHP-Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Teams, and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator 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.

Judge Liu will sentence the defendant on April 20, 2018 at 8:45 in Department 2.