

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**UNIVERSITY SANTA CRUZ STUDENT
SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR
COLLISION THAT KILLED TWO PEOPLE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Lynnea Leticia Hernandez, age 21 and a resident of Cedar Park, Texas, was sentenced by Judge Julie Culver to 6 years, the upper term, in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the collision that killed Nikolas Malliarodakis and Lillian Scott.

Hernandez previously pled guilty to one count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence for the death of Nikolas Malliarodakis, one count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence for the death of Lillian Scott, and two counts of reckless driving causing injury to her passengers Sydney Beyer, Guadalupe Valdez and Morgan Benninger.

On March 21, 2016, Hernandez and her friends, who were on Spring Break, decided to leave Santa Cruz for a daytrip to Big Sur. At approximately noon, the seven friends loaded into Hernandez's Lexus SUV and headed down Highway 1. During their road trip the girls are seen on SNAPCHAT dancing raucously, singing and passing around a marijuana pipe. Hernandez at one point is seen looking and singing into the video taking her eyes off the road and not paying attention to driving. At approximately 12:12 p.m., Hernandez crosses into oncoming traffic and hits the vehicle driven by Nikolas Malliarodakis, killing him instantly. Lillian Scott was seated in the middle backseat and was also killed instantly. The other passengers in the Hernandez's vehicle sustained major injuries because of the collision.

Nikolas Malliarodakis, age 24, was a resident of Monterey. On March 21, 2016, he headed home from his job in Watsonville to have lunch his fiancée who had just gotten off the nightshift. He was heading back to work when Hernandez collided into his car. His family addressed the Court during the extremely emotional sentencing and challenged Hernandez to use her time after prison for "positivity and make to make the world a better place in Niko's honor".

During the sentencing, Judge Culver addressed the family stating that this is such a horrible tragedy in which impact is felt by all the family members involved especially the Malliarodakis family who lost a "special soul that would light up any room he entered". Judge Culver echoed the challenge presented to Hernandez.

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.