

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS PRISON FOR 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 on April 25, Horacio Aguilar Alcantar, age 41 and a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to 9 years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher causing injury, with the special enhancements of great bodily injury, injuring multiple victims, and hit and run causing serious permanent injury. The defendant will serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

The testimony and physical evidence established that on July 16, 2016, Salinas police officers responded to a multi-vehicle collision on San Juan Grade Road in Salinas. 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 after hitting the victim's Malibu head-on leaving him injured and unresponsive. Multiple witnesses at the scene identified the driver of the Chevy Silverado who fled the scene in detail, including his multiple head tattoos on his head, specifically a "RAIDERS" tattoo.

Salinas police officers determined the defendant's address after locating the vehicle registration paperwork found inside the Silverado at the scene of the accident. Officers then went to the residence where they found the defendant impaired. He perfectly matched the description given by the witnesses. The defendant was suspected of being under the influence and a blood test confirmed he had a .18 percent blood alcohol content, over two times the legal limit.

The victim had life threatening injuries, including 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 he will spend his life in a wheelchair.

During the sentencing Judge Andrew Liu said this case was completely preventable, and he chastised the defendant for showing absolutely no remorse and continuing to deny he was the driver in the collision, despite the mountain of evidence presented at the trial. The victim's mother and daughters attended the sentencing and addressed the Court about this unnecessary tragedy to their family.

The Salinas Police Department, the CHP-Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team, particularly Officer Scott Peterson and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards, were instrumental in conducting the investigation that resulted in the arrest, court presentation and conviction. This case was presented by members of the Monterey County 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.