

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER AND HIT AND RUN IN CRASH THAT KILLED PEDESTRIAN**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jorge Osio Ramirez, age 34, pled guilty to vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and hit and run causing injury.

On October 24, 2017, the victim and her six-year-old daughter were on the way to the store and were crossing the street at the intersection of North Main Street and West Lamar Street at around 7:30 p.m. The pair activated the lights at the pedestrian crosswalk in order to cross the street. While in the crosswalk the victim and her daughter were struck by Ramirez's vehicle. The impact caused both the victim and her daughter to fly over 80 feet from where they were initially struck. The victim sustained severe injuries and died days later at the hospital. Her daughter sustained minor injuries and was released from the hospital the same night. Ramirez made no attempts to stop at the scene and fled westbound on Boronda Road.

Ramirez was located two days later. When interviewed, he told Salinas Police Officers that he was driving to work when the collision occurred. He stated that he knew the location well and had traveled that same road many times. On the evening in question, he saw the lights flashing and was aware that this meant there were either pedestrians in the crosswalk or that a pedestrian had just crossed the street. Despite seeing the flashing lights Ramirez chose to look down at his lunchbox to grab a Gatorade. When he looked back up he saw the victim and by the time he saw her it was too late to stop. When he struck the victim with his vehicle she flew up on top of the hood of his car. Ramirez stated he slowed down for a few seconds and then fled the scene.

This case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Jorge Ramirez and Salinas Police Officers. On June 5, 2018, Judge Julie R. Culver will sentence Ramirez to 4 years in prison.

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