

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GROSS VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER WHILE INTOXICATED**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Diego Jose Ramirez Rivera of Salinas, age 20, pled guilty to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and admitted an enhancement for causing great bodily injury.

On September 11, 2016, Rivera, while driving with a blood alcohol content of .17, rolled his car on Old Stage Road near Iverson Road just south of Salinas. No other vehicle was involved. Three passengers were in the vehicle, and two were not wearing seat belts and were ejected as a result. One of the ejected passengers died at the scene due to multiple blunt force trauma and the other ejected passenger broke her leg in multiple areas. The third passenger who was restrained received significant injury to her leg. The California Highway Patrol's Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) recovered the Event Data Recorder (EDR) or what is commonly known as a vehicle's "black box" from within the car. MAIT determined that Rivera travelled between 86 and 89 miles per hour at the time of the collision. The speed limit in this area is 55 miles per hour.

On August 9, 2018, Judge Julie R. Culver will sentence Rivera to 7 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

This case was investigated by California Highway Patrol Officer William Milward and District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards.