

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SANTA CRUZ MAN SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS FOR COLLISION THAT KILLED YOUNG WOMAN AND INJURED TWO OTHERS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Santa Cruz resident Bryan Onofre Garcia, age 22, was sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler for the collision that killed Jennifer Barajas and severely injured two other victims. Garcia previously pled guilty to one count of vehicular manslaughter while under the influence and an additional 3 years consecutive for causing great bodily injury to Elizabeth Gutierrez and David Fernandez. The defendant will have to serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

On March 14, 2017, at approximately 11:20 p.m. officers were dispatched to a traffic collision involving injuries on San Miguel Canyon Road. Witnesses reported the defendant, Bryan Garcia, was driving a sedan and following the vehicle ahead of him too closely. At one point, Garcia veered into the oncoming lane of traffic to pass the vehicle, however failed to return to the southbound lane. A vehicle driven by Miss Gutierrez approached in the northbound lane, tried to swerve to avoid Garcia, however was unable to and the vehicles collided, causing Garcia's car to flip and land on its side. Garcia as well as one of his passengers, David Fernandez, were taken to Natividad Medical Center for treatment of their injuries as well as Miss Gutierrez, the driver of the vehicle that Garcia collided into. Jennifer Barajas, a passenger in the defendant's car, was pronounced deceased at the scene of the collision. Mr. Fernandez suffered multiple injuries including a broken jaw, broken cheekbone and broken wrist. Miss Gutierrez suffered from a broken leg and broken pelvis among other injuries.

Officers on scene observed the defendant showing signs and symptoms of intoxication. His chemical test revealed that he had a blood alcohol level of .10

California Highway Patrol Officers Cavender, Officer Murrillo, Officer Chalk and Officer Correa along with 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.