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PRESS RELEASE

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PACIFIC GROVE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER WHILE INTOXICATED

People v. Napier; Case No. 18CR0115727 & 19CR002672;

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Stewart Maxwell Napier, age 25 and a resident of Pacific Grove, pled guilty to killing Gregory Anthony Acona. Napier pled guilty to one count of vehicular manslaughter while under the influence and one count of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury.

On December 5, 2018, the defendant was driving on Highway 1 near the 8th Street overcrossing. The defendant said he looked down for a lighter and when he looked back up, he saw the victim's brake lights and collided with him causing the victim's car to swerve off the road and burst into flames. Mr. Acona died at the scene.

California Highway Patrol Officers conducted a DUI investigation and concluded the defendant was under the influence of methamphetamines and heroin. The defendant admitted to ingesting both substances before the collision.

On March 4, 2019, the defendant was involved in a fight at the Monterey County jail where he and his co-defendants injured another inmate.

Napier will be sentenced by Judge Vazquez on July 16, 2019 in Department 5 to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for seven years.

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.