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PRESS RELEASE

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Salinas Restaurant Owner Gets Jail Time for Illegal Alcohol Sales & Insurance Fraud

People v. Fernando Jimenez Hernandez

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Fernando Jimenez Hernandez (aka Fernando Jimenez), a 45-year-old Salinas resident and owner of Tacos Acambaro, was sentenced by Judge Pamela L. Butler to serve 1-year in county jail for furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 who after consuming the alcohol causes death to himself. Hernandez also received a 5-year term on felony probation for convictions of 4 counts of insurance and tax fraud. Should Hernandez violate the terms of his probation, he faces 6 years, 6 months in in prison.

On January 29, 2017, 20-year old Abraham Requena was a patron at Tacos Acambaro where the defendant allowed him to purchase beer over the course of the evening. Mr. Requena died in a crash while driving home. His blood alcohol level when he died was .27.

The second criminal case against Hernandez was investigated by the Monterey County District Attorney's Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit. Investigators determined that Hernandez operated his business without workers compensation insurance and paid many employees in cash without withholding required payroll taxes. On March 31, 2019, Hernandez plead no contest to 3 felonies and 1 misdemeanor.

The cases were investigated by ABC investigator Fernando Gonzales and District Attorney Investigators George Costa and Martin Sanchez.