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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 23, 2015
Re: Elmer Raymundo—Multiple DUI
offender convicted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Elmer Raymundo, age 31, of Modesto, was sentenced to 32 months in state prison following felony convictions for driving under the influence and evading a police officer.

On March 31, 2012, Raymundo was driving a vehicle when he entered a Modesto Police Department sobriety checkpoint. Officers noted Raymundo had red, watery eyes, an odor of alcohol on his breath, slurred speech, and poor balance. He denied drinking, but performed field sobriety tests consistent with being under the influence of alcohol. A subsequent breath test showed his blood alcohol level to be 0.19%, more than twice the legal limit.

Raymundo had three prior driving under the influence-related misdemeanor convictions from 2002, 2004, and 2007 that elevated the new charges to a felony. On June 6, 2012, Judge John Freeland accepted Raymundo's no contest plea to felony driving with an alcohol level of .08% or more. Raymundo was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail and five years of formal probation.

On August 29th, 2015, Raymundo once again drove into a Modesto Police Department sobriety checkpoint. An officer noted Raymundo had bloodshot, watery eyes, slurred speech, and difficulty following simple instructions. When instructed to pull into a nearby parking lot for further investigation, Raymundo fled and was pursued by police through a residential neighborhood, reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour and running numerous stop signs. After several miles, the pursuit was called off for public safety reasons. Police found him minutes later sitting in his vehicle.

Raymundo had difficulty standing, following directions, and performing field sobriety tests - all consistent with being under the influence of alcohol. A breath test showed his blood alcohol level to be 0.20%. Raymundo told officers that he "messed up," admitted he had a number of prior DUI arrests and stated that he believed he was going to jail for a long time.

Last week, Raymundo pled no contest to felony driving with an alcohol level of .08% or more and felony evading the police. Judge Rick Distaso sentenced him to two years and eight months in state prison: two years for the new felony charges and an additional eight months for violating his probation on his previous 2012 felony conviction by committing a new law violation.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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