



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Dave Harris

Chief Deputies
Doug Raynaud
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira

Chief Investigator
Kevin Bertalotto

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 4/25/2016
Re: Jose Mejia Gonzalez

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Mejia Gonzalez, age 25 of Newman, California, was sentenced to nine years and eight months in state prison for felony driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury.

On June 4, 2010, Gonzalez was driving when he failed to negotiate a turn, causing his vehicle to overturn and injuring his three passengers. Gonzalez admitted to CHP officers that he had been drinking alcohol and performed field sobriety tests consistent with a person who was under the influence. A blood test showed Gonzalez's blood alcohol content to be 0.10%, above the legal limit of .08%.

On July 15, 2011, Gonzalez pled no contest to felony driving under the influence causing injury. He admitted personally inflicting great bodily injury on two of the victims and was placed on felony probation and sentenced to 365 days in jail.

On January 14, 2016, while still on felony probation for the 2011 conviction, Newman Police stopped Gonzalez for driving without headlights. Once again, Gonzalez admitted he consumed alcohol and performed field sobriety tests consistent with a person who was under the influence. A breath test showed his blood alcohol content was 0.21%, over twice the legal limit of .08%.

On April 22, 2016, Gonzalez admitted he violated his 2011 probation when he drove with a blood alcohol level over 0.08% on January 14, 2016. He then pled no contest to felony driving with a blood alcohol level over 0.08% and admitted the 2011 prior felony conviction for personally causing great bodily injury, a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law that was used to double his sentence in the new 2016 case.

Visiting Merced County Judge Frank Dougherty sentenced Gonzalez to eight years and four months in state prison for violating probation in the 2011 case, and added an additional one year and four months for the new 2016 felony driving under the influence conviction for a total of nine years and eight months in state prison.

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.

###