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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: May 21, 2018
Re: Paul Mark Freeman
Felony convictions and prison sentence

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Paul Mark Freeman, age 42, of Modesto was sentenced to state prison for felony driving under the influence, felony failure to appear in court and violating probation from a previous felony conviction. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan prosecuted all three matters for the People.

In May of 2012, Freeman was convicted of felony driving under the influence causing great bodily injury, a violent felony pursuant to California's "Three Strikes" Law. He was placed on five years of formal probation and ordered to obey all laws and abstain from drinking alcohol.

On August 22, 2015, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Modesto Police Department officers responded to a collision in the 400 block of Wilson Avenue. Multiple witnesses identified Freeman driving at high speeds through a residential area and hitting a parked car. He showed signs of being under the influence of alcohol, and a chemical test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.35%, over four times the limit of .08%. He was charged with a new felony driving under the influence case and the People also moved to violate his previous grant of probation based upon this new law violation.

On January 17, 2016, Freeman came to court only to find out that the People would be seeking he be remanded to jail on his cases. He fled the Stanislaus County Courthouse and wasn't captured until May 2016. New felony charges were filed against Freeman for failing to appear along with an enhancement for committing a felony while out on bail.

After a three-day jury trial, Freeman was convicted of felony driving under the influence on March 8, 2018. On March 29, he pleaded guilty to the felony failure to appear. On May 15, 2018, Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced defendant Freeman to a total of 8 years and 4 months in state prison for all of his cases.

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