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Rodriguez-Moreno Found Guilty of Murder for DUI Related Accident, Killing a Pedestrian
People v. Jesus Rodriguez-Moreno, Kern County Superior Court Case BF168564A

(Bakersfield) – District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a guilty conviction. On August 11, 2023, a Kern County jury found defendant Jesus Rodriguez-Moreno guilty of three felonies: Second Degree Murder, Vehicular Homicide with Gross Negligence while Intoxicated, and Hit and Run After Vehicular Manslaughter. The jury also found enhancements for Rodriguez-Moreno’s prior DUIs and the hit and run causing death to be true. The case was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney William Schlaerth.

On the night of June 3, 2017, Rodriguez-Moreno struck a power pole with his vehicle on Highway 184, just south of Di Giorgio Road in Lamont. The crash caused significant damage to the vehicle, knocking off its front bumper and headlights. Despite the damage, Rodriguez-Moreno drove back on the roadway, veered out of his lane, and struck a pedestrian, David Rosales-Rico, who was walking along the side of the road. Rosales-Rico died on scene from a fractured skull soon after the collision.

A fluid trail from the first collision site led investigators from the California Highway Patrol to the vehicle in a nearby residential neighborhood. There, investigators found Rodriguez-Moreno passed out in the driver’s seat. Rodriguez-Moreno displayed signs of alcohol intoxication and failed field sobriety tests before he took a breath test that showed he had a blood/alcohol level of .24/.25%. The Kern Regional Crime Lab also performed DNA analysis on blood found on the vehicle’s deployed airbag, matching Rodriguez-Moreno and on the front pillar of the vehicle, matching Rosales-Rico.

Commenting on the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer said, “An innocent life was taken due to the reckless and selfish actions of a repeat offender. A life sentence is appropriate as Rodriguez-Moreno has proved to be a risk to public safety.”

Sentencing is set for September 14, 2023, in front of Judge Judy Dulcich. Rodriguez faces a life term in prison.

Jesus Rodriguez-Moreno:

