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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murder Charges Filed Against Marque Qualls For Collision That Killed Local Educator Larry Hallum

Bakersfield -- Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced today that on May 11, 2023, charges of Murder, Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated, and Assault with Deadly Weapon were filed against defendant Marque Joaquine Qualls.

The charges relate to a collision that occurred on February 15, 2023, in Bakersfield at the intersection of White Lane and Old River Road. There, it is alleged that Qualls drove while under the influence of alcohol at full speed through a red light, made no effort to slow or stop, and intentionally caused the ensuing collision with a vehicle driven by Larry Hallum. After weeks of treatment, Mr. Hallum ultimately succumbed in April to injuries allegedly sustained in the collision.

Larry Hallum was a staple in the Arvin community, where he worked for four decades as an educator at Arvin High School.

Qualls was arrested on May 17, 2023 by investigators with the Kern County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, who served the arrest warrant issued by the Superior Court after the filing of criminal charges.

Arraignment on the filed criminal complaint is currently scheduled for May 19, 2023. Qualls has been booked in the Kern County Jail on the pending charges.

The case is being prosecuted in the Kern County Superior Court under case number BF194643A.