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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: November 22, 2005

Re: Luis Alonso Lara Vargas, #1101055

For more information contact:  
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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Luis Alonso Vargas, age 18, of Turlock, was arraigned today by Stanislaus County Superior Court Commissioner Timothy Helfer on three felony counts of “Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated” and three felony counts of “Hit and Run Causing Death.”

Deputy District Attorney Michael Houston appeared for the People and requested Vargas either be held without bail, or that bail be set in the amount of \$1,000,000 million dollars because of the seriousness of the allegations and the fact that Vargas is in the United States illegally. Commissioner Timothy Helfer denied the prosecution’s request and set bail at \$300,000, noting that there was an Immigration and Naturalization Service federal hold in place preventing Vargas’ release from jail should he make bail on the charges.

Vargas is charged in the Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> early morning crash on Highway 99 that took the lives of 3 people when their car burst into flames after being hit by Vargas’ vehicle. Vargas fled the scene of the accident but was arrested nearby shortly thereafter.

Vargas did not enter a plea to the charges at this time. He will return to court on November 29<sup>th</sup> for further arraignment before Commissioner Helfer.

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