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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 18, 2018
Re: Tobien Philice Durham
Vehicular Manslaughter

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Tobien Philice Durham, age 43, of Stockton, was convicted on July 10, 2018, of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury. Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People.

Shortly before midnight on July 15, 2016, Durham was driving his Jaguar sedan eastbound on Kiernan Avenue in Modesto when he rear-ended a Honda CRV driven by Balmore Hernandez that was stopped at the intersection of Kiernan and Tully Road waiting for a traffic light to turn green. Both vehicles caught fire from the impact. Hernandez and two passengers in the Honda, Alexander Jolley and Monica Jurado, were killed.

Durham ran away from the scene to a nearby gas station and called a family member to pick him up. He never reported the collision to 911 or law enforcement. Officers with the California Highway Patrol investigating the crime determined Durham was responsible and that he had been driving while under the influence of alcohol.

On July 10, 2018, Durham pled no contest to two felony charges of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence for causing the deaths of Balmore Hernandez and Alexander Jolley. He also admitted personally inflicting great bodily injury to both victims and fleeing the scene. Durham also pled to felony driving under the influence causing injury with an enhancement for causing brain injury and paralysis to Monica Jurado. In addition, Durham admitted having previously been convicted of a felony "strike" offense pursuant to California's "Three Strikes" law and admitted having served a prior state prison term.

Sentencing is set for August 9, 2018, whereupon Durham will be sentenced to a determinate term of thirty years in state prison. He must serve at least 85% of his sentence in prison custody. Three of his felony convictions count as "strikes" under California's "Three Strikes" law and may be used to increase his sentence for any future felony convictions Durham receives after being released from prison.

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