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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: August 27, 2018
Re: Michael Jasper Daniels
Vehicular manslaughter conviction
and prison sentence

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Jasper Daniels, age 36, of Oakdale, was sentenced on August 20, 2018 for the charge of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People.

Shortly before 4:25 p.m. on May 25, 2017, Daniels was driving eastbound on Parker Road in Modesto when he veered into the opposite lane and collided head-on with a vehicle driven by Karen Pena-Marquez, age 28. Pena-Marquez was killed instantly.

California Highway Patrol officers contacted Daniels, who admitted drinking alcohol prior to driving. They also noted he showed symptoms consistent with drug or alcohol intoxication. A blood test was positive for methamphetamine use and showed Daniel's blood alcohol content to be 0.067%. At the time of the collision, Daniels was on felony probation in Stanislaus County stemming from a 2016 conviction for theft of utility services. He had also previously been convicted of driving under the influence in 2000.

On July 25, 2018, Daniels pled no contest to the felony charge of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and admitted personally inflicting great bodily injury on Karen Pena-Marquez. Daniels also admitted to being in violation of his felony probation based upon this new felony vehicular manslaughter conviction.

On August 20, 2018, Judge Linda McFadden sentenced Daniels to ten years in state prison which will run concurrently to a three-year prison sentence on his theft of utility services case.

The great bodily injury enhancement to the vehicular manslaughter charge constitutes a "Strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law that may be used to enhance any future felony conviction Daniels receives after being released from prison.

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