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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 14, 2010
Re: Nezdeh Saakyan
Conviction for Driving Under the
Influence of a Drug

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Nezdeh Saakyan, age 67, of Turlock, was convicted on June 10, 2010, after a two-day jury trial, of driving under the influence of a drug. Deputy District Attorney Randy Fischer prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 9th, 2008 shortly after midnight, a Turlock police officer observed Saakyan stop his car at a red light well beyond the limit line at N. Golden State and Olive Ave. in Turlock. He followed Saakyan and observed him to clip a curb while making a right hand turn. He attempted to have Saakyan pull over. Saakyan was slow in bringing his car to a complete stop, scraping his tire along the curb some ten yards and finally coming to rest with his right front tire on the curb.

The officer had Saakyan attempt to do some field sobriety tests which he was unable to perform because he nearly fell during the attempts. The officer had to catch him to steady him. Saakyan was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence of a drug. A subsequent blood draw showed that Saakyan had Temazepam in his system. Temazepam is used as a hypnotic to induce sleep.

Upon receiving the verdict, the Honorable John Whiteside placed Saakyan on three years of informal probation, ordered him to pay specified fines and sentenced him to two days in the county jail.

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