



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Dave Harris

Chief Deputies
Doug Raynaud
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 15, 2017
Re: Rigoberto Luis Gonzalo Villanueva
Felony DUI convictions & prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rigoberto Luis Gonzalo Villanueva, 26, of Modesto, California, was sentenced to three years in state prison for driving under the influence causing injury and subsequently driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or above with a prior felony conviction for driving under the influence.

On March 20, 2016, Villanueva ran a stop sign and broadsided another vehicle, injuring the two occupants. Modesto Police officers noted that Villanueva showed obvious symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol. A chemical test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.20%, more than two times the .08% limit.

On April 1, 2016, Villanueva pled guilty to felony driving with a blood alcohol level above 0.08% causing injury. He also admitted an enhancement that he hurt more than one person and that his blood alcohol level was above 0.15%. He was placed on felony probation and ordered to serve 180 days in jail.

On May 31, 2016, Modesto Police stopped Villanueva for several traffic violations. Villanueva failed to stop initially and after a short pursuit he was arrested. Once again, he had objective symptoms of alcohol intoxication. A chemical test showed his blood alcohol content to be even higher at 0.25/0.25%, more than three times the .08% limit.

Almost a year later, on May 11, 2017, Villanueva pled guilty to felony driving with a blood alcohol level above 0.08%. He admitted the prior felony DUI with injury conviction from March 2016, as well as an enhancement for having a blood alcohol level was above 0.15%. In addition, Villanueva admitted he violated his felony probation by failing to obey all laws when he committed another felony DUI in May 2016.

Judge Rick Distaso sentenced Villanueva to three years in state prison for the May 2016 offense and then revoked Villanueva's probation in his March 2016 DUI and sentenced him to another three-year state prison sentence. Both sentences will run concurrently to each other.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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