

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney



04-732

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**Andrew Burgher Pleads Guilty to the DUI Murders of Two Victims
on Cathedral Oaks in October 2021**

RE: People v. Andrew Burgher, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 21CR07000

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that Andrew Burgher, a 34-year-old resident of Santa Barbara, California pled guilty to two Counts of 2nd Degree Murder.

The charges stem from incident on October 26, 2021, where Mr. Burgher was driving his vehicle eastbound on Cathedral Oaks past Dara Road. The defendant was driving a Toyota 4Runner for Uber Eats, traveling roughly 90mph in a 40mph zone, with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.16 when he struck a Ford Mustang from behind sending that vehicle careening into a parked truck. The Ford Mustang was driven by Gilberto Arteaga with his passenger, Silvia Velasco, who were both pronounced dead on scene after emergency personnel arrived.

Sentencing is set for June 13, 2024, in Department 1 in front of the Honorable Jean Dandona. Based on his guilty pleas, Mr. Burgher will be sentenced to 15 years to life in State Prison. District Attorney John Savrnoch stated, "The dangers of drinking and driving are now notorious, and when the actions of an individual so egregiously endanger the public resulting in a death, our office will not hesitate to prosecute those perpetrators with murder. Thank you, California Highway Patrol, for their exceptional investigation and the Prosecution Team consisting of Michelle Mossembekker and Kevin Weichbrod for their tireless efforts in holding this individual accountable for this horrendous crime."

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