

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



04-725

RELEASE NUMBER

April 2, 2024

RELEASE DATE

Kevin Weichbrod, Senior Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT NAME

(805) 568-2437

CONTACT PHONE

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

Re: *People v. Kyle Nelson, Santa Barbara Case No. 22CR08550*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that Kyle Nelson, a 32-year-old resident of Lompoc, California was sentenced to 12 years in State Prison on two Counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated.

The charges stemmed from an incident on October 28, 2022, while out on bail the defendant was driving his vehicle southbound on Route-1, north of the US-101 interchange. The defendant was under the influence of marijuana when he attempted to overtake slower traffic and wantonly veered into oncoming traffic. Mr. Nelson caused a head-on collision with a vehicle containing 19-year-olds Jenna Causby and Dorothy Guthrie. Both young women were pronounced dead on scene. Various family members and friends came forth during the prolonged sentencing hearing to give victim impact statements highlighting the tragic loss to both families and the community at large. At the time of the offense, the defendant was out on bail in case 21CR01623 and was ultimately sentenced to one year in County Jail for annoying or molesting a child. John Doe's mother also made a moving victim impact statement expressing to the court the far ranging repercussions the defendant's actions have had on her son and her family.

District Attorney John Savrnoch stated, "While the use of marijuana is now legal, this case underlines the inherent danger associated with driving while under the influence of its effects. Our Office will continue to zealously prosecute those individuals who would endanger the lives of of our community by driving while under the influence. Thank you to the California Highway Patrol personnel for a thorough investigation and the prosecution team led by Senior Deputy District Attorney Kevin Weichbrod, Michelle Mossembekker, and Lauren Franco for their work in seeking justice in this case."

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