

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



01-716

RELEASE NUMBER

January 23, 2024

RELEASE DATE

Kevin Weichbrod, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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

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

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that Kyle Nelson, a 32-year-old resident of Lompoc, California pled guilty to two Counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated.

The charges stemmed from incident on October 28, 2022, when 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 women were pronounced dead on scene.

Sentencing is set for April 2, 2024, in Department 1 in front of the Honorable Jean Dandona. Based on his guilty pleas, Mr. Nelson will be sentenced to 12 years in State Prison. District Attorney John Savrnoch stated, "This is yet another tragic reminder of the dangers of being under the influence of any mind altering substance and getting behind the wheel of an automobile. This one reckless and careless act has ruined the lives of countless people in our community who loved and cared about Ms. Causby and Ms. Guthrie. Thank you California Highway Patrol personnel for a solid investigation and the Prosecution Team led by Senior Deputy Kevin Weichbrod, Michelle Mossembekker, and Lauren Franco for their work in seeking justice for these victims."

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