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VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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## Los Angeles Man Sentenced for Deadly DUI Crash

VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County District Attorney's Office announced today that Nathaniel Wills (DOB 04/11/88), of Los Angeles, was sentenced to 15 years and 5 months in state prison for a DUI crash that claimed the life of his passenger, Leon Parks, and injured two others. In September of 2024, Wills was found guilty by a jury of driving on a suspended license for prior DUI convictions. The jury was deadlocked on all other counts, including a murder charge, and a mistrial was declared.

Following the mistrial, Wills pled guilty on November 15, 2024, to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury, and driving with a .08% blood alcohol concentration, causing injury. He also admitted to 17 special allegations and aggravating factors, including causing bodily injury or death to more than one victim and having prior DUI convictions.

On January 27, 2021, Wills was driving a vehicle at a high rate of speed when he crashed into a large tree stump on Rose Avenue and Cesar Chavez Drive in Oxnard. Mr. Parks was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. Two other passengers were transported to the hospital with major injuries but survived. Wills was also transported to the hospital after the crash and was subsequently arrested by the Oxnard Police Department on March 9, 2021, for DUI, and the death of Mr. Parks.

Wills had four prior DUI convictions where he was given the Watson advisement. The Watson advisement is a warning given to drivers in California convicted of DUI, stating that if they drive under the influence again and someone is killed, they could be charged with murder.

Deputy District Attorney Jillian Ewan, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office DUI Unit, prosecuted the case.

“Impaired driving is incredibly dangerous to everyone on the road,” Ms. Ewan said. “This was a preventable tragedy. Wills knew that his conduct was dangerous and continued to drive impaired, resulting in the death of Leon Parks and injuring his other passengers. The District Attorney’s Office is committed to holding impaired drivers accountable to reduce these senseless tragedies.”

**Case: 2021002554**

**Defendant Information:**

Nathaniel Wills (DOB 04/11/88)

Los Angeles

**Charges pled guilty to (\* - and convicted of):**

- PC 191.5(a) – Gross Vehicular Manslaughter
- VC 23153(a) – DUI of alcohol causing injury
- VC 23153(b) – Driving with BAC .08% causing injury
- \*VC 14601.2(a) – Driving w/ privilege suspended for prior DUI conviction

**Special allegations admitted:**

- PC 191.5(d) – Gross vehicular manslaughter
- PC 1192.8(a) – Serious felony
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant’s prior convictions
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- VC 23566 – Prior DUI convictions
- PC 12022.7(a) – Great bodily injury in commission of felony
- VC 23558 – Cause bodily injury or death to more than one victim

