



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

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Oxnard Man Convicted of Second-Degree Murder for DUI Death

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Francisco Garcia (DOB 10/07/68), of Oxnard, has been convicted by a jury of second-degree murder for the DUI crash that killed Elicia Lopez-Hernandez in 2018. The jury also found Garcia guilty of two felony DUI counts that resulted in great bodily injury to another victim, and felony fleeing the scene of an accident after causing serious injury. Several special allegations and aggravating factors were found true, including the crime involved great violence, the victim was vulnerable, and Garcia engaged in violent conduct.

On July 22, 2018, Garcia was driving eastbound on Pleasant Valley Road in Oxnard when he struck two disabled vehicles at the scene of an earlier traffic collision. Several individuals had exited their vehicles to render aid when Garcia's vehicle plowed through the scene, killing Ms. Lopez-Hernandez and seriously injuring another. Both victims were good Samaritans assisting with the earlier accident.

Garcia fled the scene on foot and was later located hiding on a nearby rooftop by the Oxnard Police Department. His blood alcohol concentration was measured at 0.24% hours after the crash. He had been heavily drinking throughout the day.

Garcia had a prior DUI conviction from 2009 and had received a *Watson* advisement from the court. A *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.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Edward Andrews prosecuted the case.

"The jury's verdict today recognizes the devastating consequences of the defendant's actions," Mr. Andrews said. "The defendant took the life of a woman who only sought to help others, grievously injured another good Samaritan, then he fled rather than face what he did. After a long and

challenging process, these convictions bring a measure of closure to the victim's family. It also sends a clear message: repeated acts of drinking and driving can be deadly. This conviction enhances public safety for our Ventura County community."

Garcia is scheduled to be sentenced on August 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 26 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He faces 22 years to life in state prison.

Case: 2018025359

Defendant Information:

Francisco Garcia (DOB 10/07/68)

Oxnard

Charges convicted of:

- PC 187(a) – Second degree murder
- VC 23153(a) – DUI of alcoholic beverage causing injury
- VC 23153(b) – Driving with a .08% blood alcohol causing injury
- VC 20001(b)(2) – Fleeing the scene of an accident causing permanent, serious injury

Special Allegations:

- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct
- PC 12022.7(a) – Great bodily injury in commission of felony
- VC 23152SA/F – Drunk driving priors

