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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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**Woman Sentenced to Prison for Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated and Driving
Under the Influence of Alcohol Causing Great Bodily Injury**

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Maia Yasmine James (DOB 06/12/97), of Palmdale, was sentenced to eight years in state prison, following her June 21, 2019, convictions for gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury. James also admitted special allegations that she inflicted great bodily injury, had a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent or higher and injured additional victims.

On the evening of October 13, 2017, James drove into oncoming traffic on Highway 126 east of Fillmore and struck two vehicles traveling in opposing lanes. The passenger in James' car was killed. The driver and passenger of the first vehicle James struck were seriously injured. Two occupants of the second vehicle James struck were also injured. Investigation by the California Highway Patrol found that James had a blood alcohol content of 0.258 percent after the collision, more than three times the legal limit, and had consumed more than seven alcoholic drinks.

After James pled guilty to her crimes, and prior to her sentencing, she was arrested and charged with felony driving under the influence of alcohol in San Diego County. Her case in San Diego County is still pending.

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