



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Approved: SW
Date: June 10, 2024
Release No.: 24-071

Alnaji Pleads Not Guilty at Arraignment on Information

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that Loay Abdel Fattah Alnaji (DOB 05/06/73), of Moorpark, pled not guilty to all charges at today's information arraignment. Alnaji is charged with felony involuntary manslaughter, felony battery causing serious bodily injury, and the special allegation that he personally inflicted great bodily injury.

Alnaji is accused of engaging in a physical confrontation with the victim, Paul Kessler, on November 5, 2023, while both were protesting on the corner of Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Westlake Blvd., in Thousand Oaks. Mr. Kessler subsequently died from injuries sustained during the incident.

An information arraignment takes place after a preliminary hearing, which concluded on May 15, 2024. During that two-day preliminary hearing, Senior Deputy District Attorney Courtney Lewis presented evidence, including DNA analysis of blood found on the megaphone, which Alnaji is accused of striking Mr. Kessler with. That blood evidence is a match to Mr. Kessler. Video evidence was also presented, which included video and audio from Mr. Kessler's cell phone showing the moments before he was struck by Alnaji. Dr. Othon Mena, a Ventura County medical examiner, testified that Mr. Kessler died from blunt force trauma caused by the blow from the megaphone and the subsequent fall to the pavement. Dr. Mena was one of 18 witnesses called during the preliminary hearing.

The case was set for a pretrial conference on September 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 22 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Alnaji remains out of custody on \$50,000 bail. If convicted on all charges, he faces a maximum of four years prison.

Case: 2023030461

Defendant Information:

Loay Abdel Fattah Alnaji (DOB 05/06/73)

Moorpark

Charges:

- PC192(b) – Involuntary manslaughter
- PC 243(d) – Battery causing serious bodily injury

Special Allegations:

- PC 1192.7(c)(8) – Personally inflicted great bodily injury