



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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## Oxnard Man Sentenced to 20 Years to Life for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder DUI

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Francisco Garcia (DOB 10/07/68), of Oxnard, has been sentenced to 20 years to life in state prison for the DUI crash that killed Elicia Lopez Hernandez in 2018. A Ventura County jury convicted Garcia on July 9, 2025, of second-degree murder, 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 that 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.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Edward Andrews prosecuted the case.

"Elicia Lopez Hernandez was struck down while trying to help others. Her loss and the injury and suffering the defendant caused are tragedies that justice alone cannot heal," Mr. Andrews said. "The sentence today brings accountability and serves to protect the community from a dangerous individual."

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.

**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

