



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Jose Andrade-Blanco Convicted of Murder, Driving Under the Influence, and Hit and Run for a 2016 Collision Causing Death**

Jose Manuel Andrade-Blanco (26, of Fresno) was convicted yesterday of murder and other related charges for the November 2016 alcohol related collision that killed Juan Diaz-Rodriguez and injured five (5) others, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Yesterday, the defendant entered pleas of "no contest" to the felony crimes of:

- 1.) Murder [P.C. § 187(a)];
- 2.) Five counts of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol Causing Injury [V.C. § 23152(b)]; and
- 3.) Leaving the Scene of an Accident/Hit and Run [V.C. § 20001(b)(2)].

On November 23, 2016, the defendant was driving near Shaw and Seventh Avenues in Biola with a blood alcohol concentration of between 0.15 and 0.22%, when he drifted into oncoming traffic and collided with two other vehicles. The collision caused injuries to five (5) individuals and the death of Mr. Diaz-Rodriguez, who were passengers in the vehicles struck by the defendant. After the collision, the defendant fled on foot into a nearby orchard.

The defendant was prosecuted for the crime of murder, partially due to the fact that he had been convicted in 2015 for the misdemeanor crime of driving under the influence, and had been given a "Watson" advisement that if he continued to drink and drive, and as a result he killed someone, that he could be charged and convicted of murder. He was on probation for that prior DUI at the time of this crime.

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail, and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 26, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., in Department 32 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

Mr. Andrade-Blanco faces a sentence of Fifteen (15) years-to-life, plus an additional term of two (2) years, in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. However, the defendant will be eligible for release after serving 20 years under the expanded Youthful Offender Parole Program, and upon reaching age 60 and after serving 25 years, he will be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole Program.

This case serves as a reminder this Memorial Day Weekend to designate a non-drinking driver during your holiday celebrations.

The Media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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