



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murder Charge Filed Against Impaired Driver for Hit and Run Crash that Killed Bicyclist

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Jonathan Paul Petty (36, of Clovis) for his role in the crash which occurred in the evening hours of May 31, 2023. While driving his Ram 1500 pickup truck westbound on Herndon Avenue, Petty crashed into a bicycle being ridden by Peter Binz (33, of Clovis). Following the crash, Petty fled the scene back to his residence. He left Binz behind him on the side of the road, where he was pronounced deceased by first responders.

Petty was contacted at his residence by law enforcement officers from the California Highway Patrol, who performed an investigation to determine whether Petty was driving under the influence at the time of the crash. Following that investigation, officers determined that Petty was under the influence of alcohol.

The Felony Complaint filed in the Superior Court alleges that Jonathan Petty committed:

1. One (1) Count of MURDER [Penal Code §187];
2. One (1) Count of LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT – CAUSING DEATH [Vehicle Code §20001(b)(2)];
3. One (1) Count of DRIVING ON A RESTRICTED LICENSE BASED UPON PRIOR DUI CONVICTIONS [Vehicle Code §14601.2(b)]; and,
4. One (1) Count of DRIVING WITH A BAC ABOVE .01 WHILE ON PROBATION FOR DUI [Vehicle Code §23247(e)].

Petty was previously convicted for driving under the influence on December 15, 2022, for his role in a previous crash, and was still on a grant of probation stemming from that case at the time of the crash.

If convicted of the charges and allegations, Petty faces a sentence of up to 4 years plus a term of 15 years to life in prison.

Petty was arrested in the evening hours of May 31, 2023, by officers of the California Highway Patrol. He remains in custody and is scheduled to be arraigned on June 5, 2023, in Department 33 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

The case is currently being prosecuted by the Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

[23-15113 DUI]