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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Trial Vehicular Homicide Conviction: Kyle Winchell: Case #MF013235A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that a conviction had been obtained significant vehicular homicide case today. On March 23, 2021, a Kern County jury found Kyle Dennison Winchell guilty on all charged counts, including one felony count of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter and one felony count Hit and Run for fleeing the scene of an injury collision. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi.

On July 1, 2018, Winchell was driving southbound on Tehachapi Willow Springs Road when he attempted a series of high-speed passes on a blind curve while driving in the opposite lane of travel and to the left of the double yellow parallel lines for his direction of travel. The victim, Joseph Bistany (28 years old) was returning home from work at Edwards Air Force Base when he was confronted with Winchell's vehicle, travelling on the wrong side of the road and directly toward Bistany. Bistany was compelled to drive onto the shoulder in an effort to avoid a head-on collision with Winchell. In making the evasive maneuver to avoid Winchell, Bistany lost control of his vehicle and ultimately struck a truck, resulting in Bistany's death. The driver of the truck also suffered significant injuries as a result of the collision

Winchell did not stop at the scene, after having been the cause of the major collision.

A witness who had seen the collision chased after Winchell. Winchell drove away from the scene at speeds of up to 95 miles an hour. The witness was able to catch up to Winchell and take photographs of his vehicle. With that information, along with reconstruction and other witness statements, the California Highway Patrol was able to identify Winchell as the driver whose grossly negligent criminal conduct resulted in Joseph Bistany's untimely death.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating: "Anyone driving a vehicle owes a duty of care to the entire community. When drivers flagrantly disregard speed laws, drive on the wrong side of the road, and cause catastrophic injuries as a result, they will be held accountable. In this case, the extraordinary efforts of a witness to follow and identify the responsible vehicle involved proved essential

to further investigation and proof of the case. It serves as a reminder that community involvement is an essential ingredient to providing justice in all cases.”

Winchell faces up to 11 years in prison as a result of the conviction. Sentencing is scheduled for April 21, 2021 before the Honorable John Oglesby.