

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Vehicular Manslaughter Charge Filed
for Stevenson Ranch Solo DUI Crash**

An Agua Dulce man has been charged with vehicular manslaughter after an alleged solo DUI crash in which his friend was killed and two others were injured, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Michael Blake Palazzola (dob 2/21/91) faces one felony count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and two felony counts of driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury.

Case PA085668 was filed yesterday and Palazzola pleaded not guilty today to the charges. He is due back on March 10 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

Palazzola is accused of being under the influence when he crashed near Stevenson Ranch Parkway and Pico Canyon Road in Stevenson Ranch on Jan. 16, prosecutors said. The defendant was allegedly driving Steven Richard Kirk's vehicle who was riding as a passenger and died as a result of the crash, prosecutors added.

Two women in the vehicle also were injured but survived.

If convicted as charged, Palazzola faces a possible maximum sentence of 18 years in state prison.

Bail has been set at \$360,000.

The case remains under investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Newhall Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.