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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced for DUI Murder of Couple in Arleta

A 43-year-old man has been sentenced to 30 years to life in state prison for killing a married couple when he crashed into their car, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Arsen Panasian of Van Nuys was sentenced yesterday after a jury found him guilty on Dec. 19, 2016, of two counts each of second-degree murder and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

Deputy District Attorney Kaveh Faturechi said the court also found true that Panasian was convicted twice before, in 2001 and 2006, of misdemeanor driving with a .08 percent or higher blood alcohol content.

On June 20, 2015, Panasian drove through a red light on Branford Street and Dorrington Place in Arleta and crashed into the vehicle of a couple coming home from a birthday party, according to court testimony. The victims, Alfred Chacón, 62, and Alma Alyce Chacón, 61, died in the crash.

The defendant had a blood alcohol content of .23 percent at the time of the crash, according to evidence presented at the trial.

Case PA083746 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.