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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
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**Barnes Found Guilty of DUI and Evading Police**  
*People v. Phillip Barnes: Kern County Superior Court Case BF199226A*

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced conviction today for reckless evasion from a peace officer and driving under the influence. On September 5, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Louis Jameson, a Kern County jury found Phillip Barnes guilty of evading a peace officer, driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a .08% blood alcohol content, driving under the influence of drugs, and driving under the influence of alcohol and any drug. Prior to the verdict, the defendant plead no contest to a charge of driving with a suspended license. The court also found true that Barnes had prior convictions for driving under the influence and strike offences including robbery, attempted robbery, and dissuading a witness.

On March 8, 2024, at 2:18 am Bakersfield Police Department were dispatched to a Circle K store regarding a subject passed out in a vehicle. When officers arrived, Phillip Barnes woke up and drove away. Police followed in their patrol vehicles and activated their lights, signaling Barnes to pull over. However, Barnes failed to yield, and officers commenced a pursuit. The pursuit ended when Barnes crashed his vehicle into a tree at Downtown Mercy Hospital. A DUI investigation and blood draw revealed that Barnes had a blood alcohol content of .111% and tested positive for marijuana and phencyclidine (PCP).

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "It takes a united community to ensure the safety of our county—starting with vigilant citizens, dedicated law enforcement, and the District Attorney's Office ensuring that justice is served. Careless drivers claim lives every day, but with this conviction, Mr. Barnes will no longer have the opportunity to endanger others on our roads."

Sentencing is set for October 3, 2024, before the Honorable Tiffany Organ-Bowles in Department 8 of the Kern County Superior Court. Barnes faces up to 6 years in prison.

Phillip Barnes:

