



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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CHICO TEEN ADMITS TO VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

A 19-year-old Chico man entered a no-contest pleas in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon for killing a 26-year-old man in a vehicle verses motorcycle collision last year in downtown Chico.

Pesiaune Finau, 19, was charged with one count of felony VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER and one count of misdemeanor DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE. His case was set for sentencing on December 14, 2022.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the vehicular manslaughter charge resulted from an incident on September 26, 2021, when Chico Police Department received reports of a collision at the intersection of 8th Street and Main Street in downtown Chico.

It was a clear and dry afternoon when Finau was driving a SUV westbound on E. 8th Street at 76mph in a 35mph zone and ran a red light at Main Street. He struck 26-year-old Hunter Dixon, who was riding through that intersection on his motorcycle on the green light.

The subsequent investigation showed that after Finau struck Dixon at 63mph, he veered to the right and into a building at 118 W. 8th Street. The building sustained major structural damage and had to be braced for safety by Chico Fire Department. Finau did not have a driver license and had been recently ticketed for it. Dixon was pronounced dead soon after at the hospital.

Ramsey said Finau faces up to six years in state prison. He remains in jail until his sentencing.

