



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Oroville Street Racer to Stand Trial on the Deaths of Three People and Injuring A Fourth**

A 20-year-old Oroville street racer was held to answer after a preliminary hearing today in Butte County Superior Court on felony manslaughter and other charges stemming from an incident in April where he was allegedly street racing in his Camaro with another car that crashed, killing three and injuring a fourth.

Butte County Superior Court Judge Michael Candela heard the prosecution evidence against **Carlos Lee Hill Jr., 20, of Oroville**, and found sufficient evidence to send his case onto a jury trial on three counts of manslaughter, a count of street racing causing death and injury, reckless driving causing death and injury, and hit-and-run driving resulting in death and injury.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the evidence showed Hill was identified as one of two drivers engaged in a street race on Lincoln Boulevard in South Oroville that led to the other vehicle crashing, ejecting and killing three of its four occupants, including a two-year-old child. A fourth victim, four-years-old, was also ejected and sustained serious injuries, but fortunately survived after being taken to UC Davis by helicopter.

Ramsey said that on April 29, 2021, during the noon hour, 911 calls started coming in of a vehicle that had crashed off the roadway and overturned. Fire and medical personnel responded as well as California Highway Patrol units. Upon arrival, officers observed a “chaotic” scene with multiple power poles down, live electrical wires strewn about, and a large debris field. The crashed vehicle, a Jeep Grand Cherokee, was located off the road at Baggett-Marysville Road, with extensive damage.

Ramsey said the two adult victims were deceased at the scene. The two-year-old was thrown roughly 80-100 feet from the car and suffered severe injuries. Fire and medical personnel tried to save her life, but were ultimately unsuccessful and she was pronounced dead at Oroville Hospital. The fourth victim, four-years-old, had also been ejected and had a serious head injury as well as injuries to her arms and legs. A helicopter was dispatched and landed on scene, and transported the young victim to UC Davis for emergency treatment. Evidence showed the children were not in child car seats.

Ramsey said witnesses estimated the speeds of the vehicles at between 80-100mph, while the speed limit is only 45mph in that area. CHP officers testified during the hearing that the area

normally has a large amount of vehicle and foot traffic at that time of day. As part of their investigation, officers obtained surveillance footage from multiple businesses confirming that the two vehicles appeared to line up at a stop sign on Lincoln Boulevard, rev their engines, and then take off in a street race. The race continued towards the curve at Lincoln and Baggett-Marysville Road, where the Jeep lost control and began to roll, crashing through the power poles and ultimately coming to rest off the road. Officers testified the Jeep had sustained extensive damage, including the roof, causing it to collapse into the passenger area of the vehicle.

Ramsey said that rather than remain on scene, as required by law, Hill instead fled the scene, only returning approximately half an hour later. Witnesses at that time recognized him as the driver of the Camaro involved in the street race, and pointed him out to officers, who arrested him.

CHP officers testified that Hill did not possess a driver's license, and had been convicted on multiple prior occasions of driving without a license. At the time of the crash, Hill had several warrants for failing to come to court on those vehicle violations.

Ramsey said Hill will next be in court on July 14, 2021 for arraignment and setting the date for his jury trial on the charges, which could bring up to 15 years in prison. Judge Candela found Hill presented a significant public safety risk to the community and ordered Hill held in custody without bail.

