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Spitzer urges Clark County DA to prosecute Soriano

Escapee from OC Probation Dept. should be held accountable in fatal DUI crash

(Santa Ana, CA) — Supervisor Todd Spitzer today wrote a letter, urging Clark County District Attorney Steven Wolfson to prosecute Jean Soriano for his part in a DUI fatality in Moapa County, Nev. on March 30, 1013.

Soriano escaped from Orange County's Youth Guidance Center on March 1 and was a passenger in the vehicle that hit and killed five people.

"Jean Soriano falsely confessed to a crime he did not commit. Based on DNA evidence, it has come to light that Mr. Alfred Gomez was allegedly the driver and the true perpetrator of this horrific crime," Spitzer wrote. "But for Jean Soriano wrongfully confessing to this crime, Nevada authorities would have tested Mr. Gomez at the hospital that night and would have retained him as a suspect in this crime. Tragically, no one is currently being held accountable for the reckless and senseless killing of five innocent people due to the fact that Soriano falsely confessed and then, based on that false confession, authorities released Mr. Gomez - who has now absconded."

Soriano was cleared of criminal charges related to the crash and was returned to Orange County to face a charge of escaping from juvenile detention, facing a year, if convicted. Spitzer urged the Clark County District Attorney office to charge Soriano with obstruction of justice.

"Mr. Soriano needs to be held accountable for obstruction of justice. The victims' families in this case deserve restitution," Spitzer wrote. "They deserve to hold someone accountable for the tragedies that occurred

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that fateful night. This incident was a public outrage and it is evident that Mr. Soriano should be held accountable for his actions to circumvent the Criminal Justice System.”

Soriano has a pre-trial hearing on the escape charge scheduled for Aug. 16. He has pleaded not guilty to the escape charge.

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