

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



09-810

RELEASE NUMBER

September 16, 2025

RELEASE DATE

Sr. Deputy District Attorney Madison Whitmore

CONTACT NAME

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Felony Murder and DUI Charges Filed in Fatal SR-246 Incident

Re: *People v. Jesus Moises Martinez Chavira*
Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 25CR07678

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John Savrnoch announced today that charges have been filed against 46-year-old Jesus Moises Martinez Chavira. Mr. Martinez Chavira is charged with one felony count of murder for an incident on SR-246 on September 5, 2025, that killed a man. It is further alleged that Mr. Martinez Chavira drove under the influence of alcohol causing injury to another victim.

Mr. Martinez Chavira was arraigned today in Santa Maria Superior Court Department 9 and bail was set at \$2 million. California Highway Patrol is investigating the case and Senior Deputy District Attorney Madison Whitmore and Deputy District Attorney Ryan Clausen are leading the prosecution team. The matter is set next for a preliminary hearing setting in Department 7 on December 1, 2025.

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