

MELLANIE VARGAS CONVICTED FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

By Trevor Roberts

SAN FRANCISCO—On Friday, April 12, 2024 Mellanie Vargas, 24, of Antioch was convicted after a trial by jury by the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for driving under the influence in SOMA. She was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol (VC 23152(a)) and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or greater (VC 23152(b)).

According to testimony and other evidence presented at trial, on October 21, 2023, after a night of drinking, dancing, and partying at the Halcyon Club, Vargas attempted to drive herself and some friends home. She was spotted by CHP after making an improper lane change (violation of CVC 21658(a)) resulting in an improper left turn in front of a taxi, which nearly caused a dangerous crash at the intersection of Eight Street and Harrison



Mellanie Vargas has been convicted for driving under the influence. Photo courtesy of Danny Lines via Unsplash.

Street.

When asked to pull over, the defendant continued to drive until she was stopped on

Bryant Street. Upon the stop, officers noticed signs of impairment which led them to conduct field sobriety tests. A breath alcohol

measuring device revealed at the scene registered that Ms. Vargas had a blood alcohol concentration over the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

"Driving under the influence is a serious problem in our community and I want to thank the jury for recognizing that problem and holding Ms. Vargas accountable," said Assistant District Attorney Elliott Brooks. "They took their time to look at each piece of evidence and assess credibility in the ways they were instructed to and ultimately found that the totality of the evidence resulted in one reasonable conclusion."

Vargas is currently out of custody. She faces up to six months in county jail for her crimes, with sentencing scheduled for May 3, 2024.

ALAN FUENTES-MIRANDA CONVICTED OF DUI IN MISSION DISTRICT

By Trevor Roberts

SAN FRANCISCO—On Wednesday, April 17, Alan Fuentes-Miranda, 44, of San Francisco was convicted in court for driving under the influence in the Mission District. The San Francisco District Attorney's Office indicated that Fuentes-Miranda was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol (VC 23152(a)) with an allegation of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent (Pen. Code. 23578) found

true and driving with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or greater (VC 23152(b)) with an allegation of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 percent (Pen. Code. 23578) found true.

According to testimony and other evidence presented at trial, on January 18, San Francisco Police officers responded to reports of a collision involving a suspected impaired driver and vehicles

parked on the 800 block of Florida St. Officers identified the driver as the defendant and observed signs of impairment as well as open alcohol containers in his vehicle. It led them to conduct field sobriety tests. A breath alcohol chemical test registered that Fuentes-Miranda had a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit.

"I thank the jury for their service, attention throughout the trial, and ad-

ministration of a just result," said Assistant District Attorney Mia Cabello. "Driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous and against the law. The jury's verdict holds Mr. Fuentes-Miranda accountable for his actions."

The defendant is currently out of custody. He faces up to six months in county jail for his crimes and will be sentenced on April 26.

SFPD MAKES 42 ARRESTS IN TENDERLOIN ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

By Trevor Roberts

SAN FRANCISCO—On Thursday, April 11, the San Francisco Police Department disclosed that they made 42 arrests – including 30 wanted fugitives – while seizing narcotics during a one-day, multi-agency law enforcement operation in the Tenderloin and surrounding areas on April 10.

"Our officers will continue to make arrests and hold individuals committing crimes accountable for their actions," said Chief Scott. "I truly appreciate our hard-working officers and our city partners for their commitment to this effort." The SFPD reported that the operation, which occurred throughout the day Wednesday, was the latest large-scale enforcement operation that is part



Photo courtesy of the San Francisco Police Department.

of the city's Drug Market Agency Coordination Center.

Officers seized narcotics including fentanyl and methamphetamine. The

SFPD has been increasing enforcement at night around U.N. Plaza and other areas where illegal activity occurs. The operations will continue for the foreseeable

future.

Wednesday's operation included the United States Marshals Service, San Francisco Sheriff's Office, Adult Probation Department, SFPD officers from the Narcotics Unit, Narcotics Drug Recognition Expert Team, Tenderloin Station Patrol/Violence Reduction Team, Tenderloin Plainclothes Team, and the Fugitive Recovery Enforcement Team.

"The SFPD would like to thank the assistance of the San Francisco Sheriff's Office who were instrumental in this operation. Our efforts to take wanted suspects off our streets and hold individuals accountable will make streets safer and save lives," the SFPD said in a statement.

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SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

NEWSROOM:

info@thesfnews.com

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