

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Greenville County Courthouse  
305 E. North Street, Suite 325  
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor  
W. Walter Wilkins

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**May 20, 2019**

**Greenville Man Sentenced on Felony DUI Resulting In Death**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that GABRIEL MARTINEZ PEREZ, age 52, pled guilty on May 16, 2019 to Felony Driving Under the Influence Resulting in Death, and was sentenced to 15 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia H. Verdin.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Ian Conits established that on September 30, 2018 at approximately 8:56 PM, GABRIEL MARTINEZ PEREZ was traveling west in a Nissan Altima on Laurens Road past the Willy Taco restaurant and made a left turn onto E. Washington Street. Evidence indicated that PEREZ was traveling at approximately 20 mph and failed to yield to oncoming traffic when he turned left onto E. Washington Street. As a result, the Defendant's vehicle struck the Victim, Ioannis Tsantakis, who was operating a moped and travelling through the intersection at the time. PEREZ's vehicle struck Mr. Tsantakis with such force that he was propelled over the top of PEREZ's vehicle, resulting in fatal injuries to the victim. Defendant's BAC was .155% and he was operating his motor vehicle without a valid driver's license.