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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER**

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell announced today that Marquis Edwards, age 26, was found guilty of Second Degree Murder, in the death of Gwynne Chai Coye. He was also found guilty of Evading a Peace Officer Causing Death, Evading a Peace Officer Against Traffic, and Driving on a Suspended License. Assistant District Attorney Greg Peinado prosecuted the case.

On August 9, 2014, with alcohol in his system and nearly 13 grams of methamphetamine in his car, Edwards was seen by California Highway Patrol Officers speeding in his car northbound on Graham Hill Road at approximately 2:18 a.m. When the officers attempted to stop Edwards' car near Sims Road, he made an illegal u-turn and started heading back towards Santa Cruz. He then led officers on a high-speed chase, some of which occurred in the opposing lane of traffic, at speeds exceeding 90 miles per hour. Edwards, who was already on felony probation for a prior conviction for Evading a Peace Officer, and misdemeanor probation for Driving Under the Influence, collided with a wall at a sharp turn in the road. The force of the collision killed Coye.

Edwards had previously been convicted of driving dangerously. The jury found him guilty of second degree murder based on its finding that he knowingly engaged in conduct that was dangerous and in conscious disregard for human life.

The case was investigated by the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Justice, and the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations.