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**PRESS RELEASE**

**District Attorney Files Felony Charges  
In Grover Beach Dog Mauling Case**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, February 2, 2017 – Today, the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office filed two felony charges against Alex Paul Geiger (dob 7/31/1991) for failing to maintain control of a dangerous animal on December 13, 2016 that led to the death of David W. Fear (64) and serious bodily injury to Betty J. Long (86).

The two-count felony criminal complaint alleges that Mr. Geiger had custody and control of a dangerous animal; that he knew that the animal was dangerous; that he failed to use ordinary care in keeping the animal; and that the animal killed David W. Fear and caused serious bodily injury to Betty J. Long. The code sections alleged are California Penal Code sections 399(a) and 399(b) respectively.

This criminal complaint is the result of an investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Office after the case was referred to the Office by the San Luis Obispo County Animal Services Division on December 29, 2016. An arrest warrant has been requested for Mr. Geiger. A court date will be set after Mr. Geiger has been booked at the San Luis Obispo County Jail.

This is the first known case within San Luis Obispo County where a dog mauling has led to the death of an individual. However, since 2003 this office has filed 5 cases involving dog mauling that caused serious bodily injury. Those cases resulted in 5 misdemeanor convictions. The maximum punishment for the charges filed against Mr. Geiger is 3 years and 8 months in prison.

Point of contact for media inquiries is Assistant District Attorney Lee Cunningham (805) 781-5874.

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