




**GREGORY D. TOTTE**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Thomas Frye  
Title: Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: 805-252-3929  
E-mail: Thomas.Frye@Ventura.org

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**Former Officer Provides False Information After Claiming to Be Victim of Hit-and-Run**

*VENTURA, California* –District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Gabrielle Root (DOB 4/14/93), of Ventura, has been charged with one misdemeanor count of providing false information to a police officer in violation of Vehicle Code section 31.

On December 20, 2019, Root was on duty as a police officer with the Ventura Police Department when her patrol car was involved in a minor collision with a parked vehicle. Root later reported to the Ventura Police Department that her patrol car was damaged by an unknown hit-and-run driver. During the ensuing investigation, Root is alleged to have provided false information to the responding officer. When the false information came to light, Ventura police commenced a criminal investigation into Root's conduct. Root is no longer employed as a police officer.

Arraignment is scheduled for August 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 11 of the Ventura County Superior Court. If convicted, Root faces a maximum sentence of six months in the Ventura County jail.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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