



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

4/21/17

**VISALIA MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMASHING POLICE
CRUISER, FLEEING SCENE**

Today in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden sentenced Rayford McCrae, age 26, of Visalia, to 4 years in state prison for felony hit and run involving a Visalia Police Department cruiser.

On March 30, 2017, McCrae pleaded no contest to one felony count of hit and run and the special allegations that he possessed prior strike and felony convictions.

At 12:48 am on May 27, 2016, a marked Visalia Police Department cruiser was making its way through the intersection of Noble and Locust. At the same moment, a Ford sedan travelling southbound on Locust at a high rate of speed failed to stop at the red light and collided with the driver's side of the cruiser. The officer immediately attempted to get out of the cruiser, but the damages to the car prevented his exit. The occupants of the Ford were seen fleeing the area on foot. The officer was taken to Kaweah Delta where he was treated for his injuries and released. Through witness accounts and evidence at the scene, Visalia Police Department officers located McCrae, determined he was the driver, and took him in to custody on June 1, 2016.

In addition to his sentence, McCrae was ordered to pay the City of Visalia \$29,147.52 in restitution.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Katrina Brownson and investigated by the Visalia Police Department.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
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