



For Immediate Release

Date: October 25, 2021

Re: Utah County Attorneys Files Manslaughter Charges in Crash that Killed Two BYU Students.

Subject: Death of Hailee York, 21 of Lehi and Ashlyn Hanzon, 21 of Pearland, Texas

The Utah County Attorney filed two counts of Manslaughter, a second-degree felony against Ceasar Castellon-Flores.

On October 15, 2021, at approximately 9:30 pm, the defendant was driving on State Street in Orem when he collided with another vehicle and killed two of the occupants. The defendant was driving southbound at a high rate of speed when the light turned yellow and he increased speed. The victims were in the left turning lane of northbound State street and were attempting to turn westbound on 400 south. When the light turned yellow, the victims began their turn and the defendant struck them in the intersection. On the surveillance video, the defendant's vehicle is traveling at a higher rate of speed than any of the other vehicles and can be seen passing surrounding vehicles in the southbound lanes as he approaches the intersection.

When the light turned yellow, the defendant increased speed instead of slowing down like the other southbound cars. According to the event data recorder from the defendant's vehicle, he was traveling at 68 mph in a 40 mph zone and was increasing speed to 73 mph when he hit the victim's vehicle. Both victims had been passengers in the sedan and had sustained fatal injuries to the right side of their bodies from the impact of the defendant's vehicle. Defendant claimed that he was

driving 40 mph and had a green light when he went through the intersection. The defendant was ordered held without bail.

Based upon the evidence received, our screening team proceeded with charges filed in 4th District Court.

County Attorney David Leavitt stated, "A tragic and regrettable loss of two young lives occurred because of another person's choice to beat a traffic light. This young man's life is forever altered from results of that choice, taking two lives. Nothing is ever so urgent to speed through an intersection and risk the potential of taking a life."

Persons accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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