



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2015

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FILES MANSLAUGHTER AND HIT-AND-RUN CHARGES AGAINST LUIS GARCIA FOR THE DEATH OF WHEELCHAIR BOUND AMELIA WHISNAND

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed criminal charges against Luis Garcia (51, of Fresno) relating to the death of eighty year old Amelia Whisnand last Thursday.

Luis Garcia has been charged with one felony count of Vehicular Manslaughter [Penal Code § 192] and one felony count of Leaving the Scene of an Accident [Penal Code § 20001].

Ms. Whisnand, in her wheelchair, was crossing the street in the crosswalk when she was struck and killed by a van driven by Mr. Garcia. Mr. Garcia initially stopped, but then drove away, failing to remain at the scene of the collision. The incident was captured by a surveillance camera in the area. Mr. Garcia was arrested on Friday morning at Fresno's Manchester Center after a Fresno Police Department employee saw the van and recognized it.

The defendant is currently in custody at the Fresno County Jail. He faces a maximum sentence of up to 11 years in custody if convicted. He is scheduled for Arraignment in Department 32 of the Fresno County Superior Court on Wednesday, November 25, 2015.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Tim Donovan of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office's Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Unit.

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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