



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charges Filed Against Francisco Portillo in Connection with Collision Causing Multiple Fatalities

Francisco Antonio Portillo (20, of Fresno) has been charged in a felony complaint in connection with a pursuit and collision during the evening hours of March 20, 2021. The collision occurred at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and McKinley Avenue in the City of Fresno. Mr. Portillo has been charged with crimes including gross vehicular manslaughter while impaired, evading causing death and great bodily injury, driving under the combined influence of drugs and alcohol causing great bodily injury, reckless driving causing great bodily injury, failure to stop at a red light, unsafe speed, and driving with a blood alcohol content of .05% or higher while under the age of 21.

It is alleged that Portillo evaded a Fresno County Sheriff's Deputy in the area of Highway 41 and McKinley Avenue, and that while fleeing from that location, Portillo ran a red light at the intersection of Cedar and McKinley, causing a chain reaction seven-vehicle collision that caused the deaths of a 54 year old male, a 28 year old female, and a 20 year old female. Three additional individuals are alleged to have suffered great bodily injury, including the defendant's passenger. Two additional individuals are also alleged to have been injured in the collision.

Following an investigation by the Fresno Police Department, it was determined that Portillo was under the influence of alcohol and marijuana at the time of the collision.

The complaint alleges that Portillo committed the crimes of:

1. Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated [PC 191.5(a)];
2. Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated [PC 191.5(a)];
3. Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated [PC 191.5(a)];
4. Evading causing death and great bodily injury [VC 2800.3(b)/PC 12022.7(a)]
5. Driving under the combined influence of alcohol and a drug causing great bodily injury [VC 23153(g)/PC 12022.7(a)];
6. Reckless driving causing injury and great bodily injury [VC 23105(a)/PC 12022.7(a)];
7. Failure to stop at a red light [VC 21453(a)];
8. Unsafe speed [VC 22350], and;
9. Driving with a .05% or higher blood alcohol concentration while under the age of 21 [VC 23140(a)].

If convicted of the charges and allegations, Portillo faces a sentence of up to 25 years and 8 months in prison.

The case is currently being prosecuted by the Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov with questions.

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