



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2022

Michael Anthony Mendoza Charged with Murder in Connection with March 18th Crash

Michael Anthony Mendoza (25, of Fresno) has been charged in a felony complaint with crimes including murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while impaired, driving under the influence of alcohol causing great bodily injury, driving with alcohol in his system while on DUI probation, and failing to stop for a stop sign. The charges are related to a vehicle crash which occurred at the intersection of West Jensen Avenue and South Marks Avenue during the evening hours on March 18, 2022.

It is alleged that during that crash, Mendoza was driving at a high rate of speed northbound on South Marks and failed to stop at a stop sign. Mendoza continued into the intersection with West Jensen Avenue and collided with a vehicle heading westbound. The seventeen-year-old female driver of the other vehicle was killed.

Following an investigation by the California Highway Patrol, Mendoza was found to be under the influence at the time of the collision.

The complaint alleges that Mendoza committed the crimes of:

1. Murder [PC 187(a)];
2. Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated [PC 191.5(a)];
3. Driving with a blood alcohol concentration in excess of .08% causing great bodily injury [VC 23152(b)/ PC 12022.7(a)];
4. Driving under the influence of alcohol causing great bodily injury [VC 23153(a)/PC 12022.7(a)];
5. Driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .01% or higher while on DUI probation [VC 23154], and;
6. Failure to stop for a posted stop sign [VC 22450].

It is further alleged that Mendoza had been convicted of a prior driving under the influence offense which occurred in 2019. At the time of the current offense, Mendoza was still on a grant of probation arising from his prior 2019 driving under the influence conviction.

If convicted of the charges and allegations, Mendoza faces a sentence of up to 15 years to life in prison.

Mendoza was arrested in the evening hours of March 18, 2022, by officers of the California Highway Patrol. Mendoza remains in custody and is scheduled to be arraigned on March 23, 2022, at the Fresno Superior Court.

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.

[22-6746 DUI]