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GRESHAM MAN RECEIVES PRISON SENTENCE FOR KILLING BICYCLIST IN HIGH SPEED CRASH

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced a 24 month prison sentence for Alex Jacoby, 76, who was convicted in connection with a vehicle crash that occurred on September 24, 2016, which led to the death of 21-year-old Robert Esparza.

On April 13, 2018, the defendant appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Jerry B. Hodson and pleaded guilty to one count of criminally negligent homicide.

On September 24, 2016, at approximately 3:30 a.m., the defendant was driving his 2016 Chevy Corvette in Gresham, Oregon.

During the investigation, the East County Vehicular Crimes Team learned that moments prior to the crash, the defendant had aggressively challenged two other drivers to a street race. When he was unable to convince those other drivers to race, Jacoby sped off at a very high rate of speed.

Investigators determined Jacoby was operating his vehicle in the eastbound lanes of Northeast Glisan Street and was headed towards the Gresham/Fairview pedestrian trail. Mr. Esparza was on his bicycle riding northbound on the trail and had entered the crosswalk before being hit by the defendant's vehicle.

The East County Vehicular Crimes Team used forensic measurements and learned Jacoby's vehicle was traveling near 80 miles per hour approximately five seconds before the crash. The speed limit along Northeast Glisan Street near Northeast 199th Avenue is 40 miles per hour. Mr. Esparza was only a few blocks away from his family's residence and was headed to work. Multnomah County Chief Deputy District Attorney Kirsten Snowden, who prosecuted this case, said had the defendant been driving the speed limit, Mr. Esparza would not have been hit.

Esparza was transported by paramedics to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center with critical injuries. He died on September 28, 2016.

During the sentencing hearing, four members of Mr. Esparza's family addressed the court. Mr. Esparza is remembered as a caring and respectful young man who brought a lot of joy to his family.

"We as a family live with Mr. Jacoby's mistake every day, every weekend, every holiday," said Simon Esparza, Robert's father. "We wake up missing our son, brother and uncle. We go to bed wondering why we won't see him tomorrow. Sadly, these questions are answered without response."

Jacoby expressed remorse during the sentencing hearing.

"He was a great person," Florencio Angel-Ramirez, Robert Esparza's brother-in-law, told the court. "We miss him so much. Robert was devoted to his family, and not a day goes by when we don't think about him. He was everything to us, and it is still very painful."

As part of Jacoby's sentencing, he will have his driver's license permanently revoked. He will also have to pay more than \$82,000 in restitution to the Esparza family.

This criminal case was investigated by the Gresham Police Department and the East County Vehicular Crimes Team, which is comprised of members of the Gresham Police Department and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. Senior Deputy District Attorney Glen Banfield and Chief Deputy District Attorney Kirsten Snowden both handled prosecution of this case.

Media: With the permission of the Esparza family, a photo of Robert Esparza is being released with this press release.



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