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Zachary Meza arraigned on nine-count indictment following serious crash in Gresham, Oregon

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 20-year-old Zachary Meza was arraigned February 19, 2019 on a nine-count indictment.

The indictment, which was filed February 15, 2019, charges Meza with one count of assault in the second degree, one count of assault in the third degree, one count of felony hit and run, one count of misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants, one count of reckless driving and four counts of recklessly endangering another person.

This investigation started on January 25, 2019 around 8:30 p.m., when the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office received information about a vehicle that had crashed in the area of Southeast 319th Street and Southeast Mally Road in Gresham, Oregon.

Upon arrival, law enforcement found paramedics treating an adult male who appeared to be suffering from significant head trauma, including a cracked skull, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Law enforcement located two other injured individuals at the scene, according to court documents.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that Meza was the driver of a pickup and that his three passengers were riding in the bed of the truck, according to court documents. All three passengers were ejected from the bed of the pickup when Meza took a turn and control of his vehicle, according to court documents.

The probable cause affidavit states that on January 26, 2019, Meza contacted the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and said that he had consumed multiple beers the previous night and that he wanted to turn himself into law enforcement after fleeing the scene. Law enforcement later learned that there was a fourth passenger inside the cab of the pickup.

Investigators determined speed was a factor in the crash and noted that the speed of the truck was fast enough for the rim of the wheels to leave a gouge in the roadway as it skidded off the road and into a field, according to court documents.

Meza's next court date is scheduled for April 1, 2019

A copy of the charging document can be obtained using case number 19CR06234 in the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system.

This remains an ongoing criminal investigation and as such, no additional information can be released by the District Attorney's Office.

An indictment is only an accusation of a crime. The defendant is innocent unless and until proven guilty.

#MCDA#

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