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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 11, 2019

Adam Alexander Valle charged with manslaughter in the second degree following high speed crash

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that criminal charges have been filed against 26-year-old Adam Alexander Valle for allegedly causing the death of 19-year-old Heaven Leigh Mathews.

According to a probable cause affidavit, on March 9, 2019, at approximately 11 p.m., officers with the Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct attempted to stop a 2004 Subaru Legacy in the area of Southeast 124th Avenue and Southeast Sherman Street after noticing the driver had committed a traffic violation. Law enforcement also learned that the vehicle had been reported stolen.

Officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the driver, later identified as Valle, immediately accelerated and attempted to elude police. The officers immediately terminated the pursuit by turning off their red and blue police lights, according to the affidavit. Although the officers were no longer in an active pursuit, they maintained a lookout for the vehicle. Officers located the vehicle in the area of Southeast Division Street and Southeast 122nd Avenue. The vehicle had crashed into a steel light pole.

"The impact was so significant that half of the entire vehicle was impaled by the pole," Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Elisabeth Waner stated in the affidavit.

Witnesses told law enforcement that shortly before crashing, the vehicle lost control after traveling at "an extremely high rate of speed," according to court documents.

Law enforcement contacted Valle approximately one block away from the scene of the crash, according to court documents. Witnesses told law enforcement that after the crash, Valle exited the vehicle and limped away.

According to the affidavit, when paramedics informed Valle that he had been involved in a crash and that his passenger had died, Valle started laughing.

Valle is charged with one count of manslaughter in the second degree, one count of felony hit and run, one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, and one count of reckless driving.

According to the court documents, Valle said he had been awake for either four or five days, without sleep, and had been using methamphetamine.

On March 11, 2019, Valle made his first court appearance in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

A copy of the charging document and probable cause affidavit can be obtained in the Oregon eCourt Information (OECI) system using case number 19CR16547.

Valle's next court date is scheduled for March 19, 2019.

A charging document is only an accusation of a crime. Valle is innocent unless and until proven guilty.

#MCDA#

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