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Pablo Cruz Sentenced to 25 to Life



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that PABLO CRUZ, 40, of Schenectady, was sentenced to 25 years to life in State Prison, before the Honorable Andrew Ceresia in Albany County Court this morning for causing the death of a bicyclist after striking him on Manning Boulevard in the City of Albany and continuing to lead police on a chase into Schenectady County.

On July 23, 2014, CRUZ was found guilty of (1) Count of Murder in the Second Degree, a Class A-I Felony, (1) Count of Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting as a Felony, a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Unlawfully Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Reckless Driving, a Misdemeanor.

At approximately 12:51am on November 24, 2012, CRUZ did, with depraved indifference, recklessly cause the death of Paul Merges, Jr., by striking him with a 1997 Chevrolet pickup truck in the vicinity of Washington Avenue and Manning Boulevard in the City of Albany. CRUZ failed to report this incident to authorities, and instead CRUZ continued to drive in an intoxicated state, with the victim still attached to the truck, through the Town of Colonie and into the County of Schenectady in a reckless manner and at a high rate of speed, driving over the double yellow lines, and at times almost striking marked police units.

By 1:12am CRUZ's vehicle stopped in the vicinity of Curry Road in the Town of Rotterdam and failed to comply with police officer's commands to exit the vehicle. CRUZ did fight with numerous officers who were attempting to take him into custody.

Vehicular Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh.

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