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35-2024
For Immediate Release
May 15, 2024

**QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 2 TO 6 YEARS IN PRISON FOR KILLING
WOMAN IN CAR CRASH AS HE FLED POLICE;
STOLEN CATALYTIC CONVERTERS WERE FOUND IN HIS CAR
Defendant Pleaded Guilty to Second-Degree Manslaughter**

District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced today that a Queens man has been sentenced to two to six years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree Manslaughter for a car crash that took the life of a 69-year-old Bronx woman driving to work.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant sped through a red light while fleeing police and crashed into a vehicle, killing a beloved sister and aunt. Investigators recovered a dozen stolen catalytic converters in his car. It is outrageous that we lost a vibrant member of the community because of the defendant’s reckless actions.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Carlos Hernandez, 24, of 34 Hillside Avenue, Queens, was sentenced today to 2 to 6 years in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Connie Morales. The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree Manslaughter on April 3, 2024.

According to the investigation, on August 25, 2022, at approximately 5:12 a.m., Hernandez was in a 2022 BMW X6 series speeding near River Avenue and East 161st Street. Video surveillance showed his vehicle going through a red light and striking an SUV driven by Cathy Garcia, 69. She was killed. Hernandez fled from the scene. His DNA was recovered from the driver’s side airbag of his car, and his cell phone was recovered in the vehicle, as were 12 stolen catalytic converters.

The case was prosecuted by Ronald Sannicandro, Deputy Chief of the Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Stephen J. Russo of the Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, under the supervision of Newton Mendys, Chief of Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.



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District Attorney Clark thanked Senior BXDA Investigators Vincent Cantarella and Brendan Sullivan, Peter Kennedy, Chief of the Technical Investigation Bureau, and Digital Forensic Laboratory Director Selena Ley for their work on the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detective Vincenzo Valenza from the Auto Crime Division, NYPD Detective Thierry Lamarre of the Force Investigation Division, NYPD Detective Daniel Nunez from the 44th Precinct Detective Squad, NYPD Police Officer Vincent Vitale from the 44th Precinct, and NYPD Detectives Emmanuel Rosario and Karl Zarek from the Highway Collision Investigation Squad for their work in the investigation.