



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH IN WOODLAND PARK

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

March 10, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Woodland Park Police Chief Anthony J. Galietti announce that an arrest was made in connection with a fatal motor vehicle crash, which occurred near 880 Rifle Camp Road in Woodland Park, New Jersey, at approximately 6:17 a.m. on March 9, 2017.

Francisco Alberto Almonte, 29, of Tompkins Cove, New York, was charged with Death by Auto, a second degree offense, and Driving Under the Influence, a motor vehicle summons.

Almonte is alleged to have operated a 2004 Chevy Impala, while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Almonte is further alleged to have caused a one-car motor vehicle collision, allegedly resulting in the death of the only passenger in the Impala, a 20 year old male. The identity of the deceased passenger is not being released at this time, pending notification to his family.

If convicted of Death by Auto, Almonte faces up to ten years of imprisonment with up to a mandatory five-year period of parole ineligibility.

This investigation and arrest were the result of the joint efforts of members of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Vehicular Homicide Major Crimes Unit and the Woodland Park Police Department.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org.

Anyone with additional information may also contact the Woodland Park Police Department at 973-345-8111.

The defendant's first appearance is scheduled in front of the Honorable John F. Meola, P.C.M.C., today, March 10, 2017, at 1:30 pm.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul DeGroot of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit at 973-837-7671 or at PDegroot@passaiccountynj.org.



(Photo: Francisco Alberto Almonte)