



Office of Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton

PRESS RELEASE

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Prosecutor Leyton Charges Detroit Man with Second Degree Murder in Death of 13-year-old Pedestrian

FLINT - Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton has charged a Detroit man in the death of a 13-year-old Flint girl who was struck and killed by a van while she was crossing the street.

Mark Blount, 28 of Detroit (d.o.b. 7/26/1983), has been charged with second degree murder related to the September 28th incident when the van he was driving struck Misty Kurmas as she was crossing S. Saginaw Street near Tobias Street just south of downtown Flint.

In announcing the charges, Prosecutor Leyton said Blount's actions "created a very high risk of death or great bodily harm and he should have known that death or such harm would be the likely result of driving in such an erratic manner and at such high speeds in that vicinity."

Prosecutor Leyton noted that the investigation determined Blount was not even aware that he was being followed by undercover police officers prior to the crash. He said Blount thought he maybe was being followed by an angry boyfriend or other drug dealers and he was trying to lose them as he sped north in his van on Saginaw St. toward downtown Flint.

As Blount passed Oakley Street in front of the International Academy of Flint school, a State Police Trooper in a marked cruiser observed him and began to pursue his speeding van. However, within about 5 seconds, Blount's van struck Kurmas a couple of blocks to the north as she was crossing Saginaw Street near Tobias.

In addition to the second degree murder charge which carries a possible sentence of up to life in prison, Prosecutor Leyton has charged Blount with Operating While License Suspended Causing Death, a 15-year felony, and Operating While Intoxicated (bodily presence of a controlled substance) Causing Death, also a 15-year felony.

"This is a very sad case and I feel very bad for the victim's family, we all do" said Prosecutor Leyton. "Misty Kurmas did not have to die like this," he said.

Blount will be arraigned in 68th District Court and a pre-trial court hearing scheduled.

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