



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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TWO PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH OCTOBER 25, 2020 HIT AND RUN

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

April 7, 2021

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Passaic Police Chief Luis Guzman announce that based upon an investigation by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Passaic Police Department, Matthew Cancel, 27 years old, from Passaic, New Jersey; and Carinell Pellot, also known as Carinell Pellot-Nieves, 23 years old, from Prospect Park, New Jersey, were arrested without incident on April 6, 2021 in connection to an investigation involving a hit and run collision that occurred on October 25, 2020.

Mr. Cancel was charged with one count of third degree Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Involving Serious Bodily Injury and Ms. Pellot was charged with one count of fourth degree Hindering Apprehension.

On October 25, 2020, it is alleged that a 2015 Mercedes Benz, being operated by Mr. Cancel, struck a pedestrian near the intersection of Market Street and Hudson Street in the City of Passaic. The pedestrian, a 64 year old man from Passaic, New Jersey, was transported to Saint Joseph's University Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey where he was treated for serious bodily injuries. During the investigation into the collision, Ms. Pellot is alleged to have given a false statement to law enforcement. Based on the joint investigation, Mr. Cancel and Ms. Pellot were charged.

Mr. Cancel and Ms. Pellot will appear at Central Judicial Processing Court on April 7, 2021. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office has filed a motion for the pretrial detention of Mr. Cancel, requesting that he be detained in the Passaic County Jail pending the resolution of the case. The detention motion will be heard by a Superior Court Judge.

The sentencing exposure on Third Degree Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Involving Serious Bodily Injury is 3-5 years in New Jersey State Prison. The sentencing exposure on Fourth Degree Hindering Apprehension is up to 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

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

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 contact the Passaic Police Department at (973) 365-3900.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Senior Assistant Prosecutor Julie Serfess of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at jserfess@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7718.



Matthew Cancel



Carinell Pellot