



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
401 Grand Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
(973) 881-4800

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## ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH PEDESTRIAN FATALITY IN PATERSON

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

January 3, 2019

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Paterson Police Chief Troy Oswald announce that based upon an investigation by the Paterson Police Department, in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Alvin W. Mootoo, 46 years old, from Orlando, Florida, was arrested this morning in relation to a multi-vehicle and pedestrian crash that took place on Wednesday January 2, 2019 at the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East 24<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Paterson, New Jersey. Mr. Mootoo is charged with Death by Auto within 1000 Feet of School Property, First Degree; and Strict Liability Death by Auto, Third Degree for the death of 31 year old Jorge Alberto Pena Mesa, of Newark, New Jersey.

On January 2, 2019, at approximately 9:34 p.m., members of the Paterson Police Department responded to the area of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East 24<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Paterson, in response to a report of a multi-vehicle collision involving three vehicles, and a pedestrian. Upon their arrival they found the driver of a Buick Encore, later identified as 46 year old Alvin Mootoo. The investigation revealed that Mr. Mootoo disregarded a stop sign when he struck a silver 2008 Honda Accord. As a result of his vehicle being struck, Mr. Mootoo's vehicle was pushed into 1999 Honda Accord which was occupied and parked at the time. Mr. Pena Mesa was standing outside of the 1999 Honda Accord speaking to the driver, at which time he was struck, and sustained serious injuries. Mr. Pena Mesa was transported to Saint Joseph's Hospital for treatment, where he was pronounced deceased a short time later. The drivers of the two Honda Accords sustained minor injuries and were treated at the hospital and released.

Mr. Mootoo was charged by way of a warrant complaint and appeared at Central Judicial Processing on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. A motion to detain Mr. Mootoo has been filed by the State and will be heard at a later date in Superior Court.

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 [tips@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tips@passaiccountynj.org) or contact the Paterson Police Traffic Bureau at 973-321-1112.

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



Alvin Mootoo