



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 19, 2018 PATERSON HIT-AND-RUN

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

January 24, 2018

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Deputy 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's Major Crimes Division, Alexzandra Pleasant, 22-years-old, from Hawthorne, New Jersey, was arrested last night in relation to a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident that took place on January 19, 2018, in the area of 21st Avenue and Lewis Street in Paterson. Ms. Pleasant is charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a crime of the Third Degree and Driving While Suspended and Causing Serious Bodily Injury to Another, a crime of the Fourth Degree.

A conviction for a Third Degree offense has a potential sentencing exposure of up to five years in New Jersey State Prison. A conviction for a Fourth Degree offense has a potential sentencing exposure of up to eighteen months in New Jersey State Prison.

On Friday, January 19, 2018, at approximately 10:30 a.m., members of the Paterson Police Department responded to the area of 21st Avenue and Lewis Street in Paterson in response to a report of a pedestrian hit-and-run accident. Upon their arrival, police found the victim, a 78-year-old male Paterson resident, lying in the roadway with visible injuries. The victim was transported to Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson where he remains to this date in critical condition.

It is alleged that Ms. Pleasant was operating the vehicle - while on the suspended list - that struck the victim as he was crossing in the crosswalk. After striking the victim, it is further alleged that Ms. Pleasant got out of the vehicle to check on the condition of the victim, got back in her car and left the scene.

Ms. Pleasant is currently remanded to the Passaic County Jail pending the State's Motion for the Defendant's Pretrial Detention – which will be heard by a Superior Court Judge on Monday, January 29, 2018.

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 or contact the Paterson Police Traffic Bureau at 973-321-1112.

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

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



(Alexzandrea Pleasant)