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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,)
)
) Plaintiff,)
)
) v.) No. 23-1-02946-8 SEA
)
) DELFINO LOPEZ-MORALES,) INFORMATION
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)
) Defendant.)
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I, Leesa Manion, Prosecuting Attorney for King County in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse DELFINO LOPEZ-MORALES of the following crimes: **Vehicular Homicide, Vehicular Homicide, Reckless Driving**, committed as follows:

Count 1 Vehicular Homicide

That the defendant DELFINO LOPEZ-MORALES in King County, Washington, on or about March 22, 2023, did drive a motor vehicle which proximately caused injury to Riley Steven Danard, a person who died within three years on or about 3-22-2023, as a proximate result of said injury; and that the defendant at said time was operating the vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, or any drug, as defined in RCW 46.61.502;

Contrary to RCW 46.61.520(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

And further do allege the crime involves the following aggravating factor and accuse the defendant, Delfino Lopez-Morales of committing said offense, and during the commission of the current offense, the defendant was driving in the opposite direction of the normal flow of traffic on a multiple lane highway, as defined by RCW 46.04.350, with a posted speed limit of forty-five miles per hour or greater; this allegation is under the authority of RCW 9.94A.535(3)(ee).

Count 2 Vehicular Homicide

That the defendant DELFINO LOPEZ-MORALES in King County, Washington, on or about March 22, 2023, did drive a motor vehicle which proximately caused injury to Khalea

1 James Thoeuk, a person who died within three years on or about 3-22-2023, as a proximate result
2 of said injury; and that the defendant at said time was operating the vehicle while under the
influence of intoxicating liquor, or any drug, as defined in RCW 46.61.502;

3 Contrary to RCW 46.61.520(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of
4 Washington.

5 And further do allege the crime involves the following aggravating factor and accuse the
6 defendant, Delfino Lopez-Morales of committing said offense, and during the commission of the
7 current offense, the defendant was driving in the opposite direction of the normal flow of traffic
on a multiple lane highway, as defined by RCW 46.04.350, with a posted speed limit of forty-
five miles per hour or greater; this allegation is under the authority of RCW 9.94A.535(3)(ee).

8 Count 3 Reckless Driving

9 That the defendant DELFINO LOPEZ-MORALES in King County, Washington, on or
10 about March 22, 2023, did drive a motor vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety
of persons and property;

11 Contrary to RCW 46.61.500, and against the peace and dignity of the State of
Washington.

12 LEESA MANION (she/her)
13 Prosecuting Attorney

14
15 By: 

16 Amy J. Freedheim, WSBA #19897
17 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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1
2 CAUSE NO. 23-1-02946-8 SEA

3 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR
4 CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

5 The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause
6 prepared by Officer Thaimin Saewong of the Seattle Police Department for case number 2023-
7 77640.

8 On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, just after midnight, 911 dispatch started receiving calls
9 about a pick-up truck driving the wrong way onto the West Seattle Bridge, a multi-lane highway
10 with a posted speed limit of 45mph. The truck drove over a concrete curbing dividing the
11 east/west lanes which ought to have alerted him that he was in the wrong lane. The truck was
12 eastbound in the westbound lanes and speeding “70-90mph” and straddling two lanes. Other cars
13 were nearly struck.

14 The truck, borrowed from a friend, was being driven by the defendant, 36yO Delfino
15 Lopez-Morales. He was not licensed to drive. At mid-span, he slammed head-on into a car being
16 driven by 18yO Riley Steven Danard. Riley’s front seat passenger was 18yO Khalea James
17 Thoeuk. The closing speed of the collision was over 100mph and both cars came to violent
18 uncontrolled stops. This collision was captured on SDOT video.

19 Riley and Khalea suffered catastrophic injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene.
20 The defendant suffered serious leg injuries and was trapped, the lone occupant, in the driver’s
21 seat.

22 In the defendant’s passenger area was an empty beer bottle. A search warrant was
23 approved by King County Superior Court Judge A. Robertson to extract and test his blood.

1
2 Approximately three hours after the collision his blood alcohol content (BAC) was .14 and his
3 THC level was 2.8. This indicates that his BAC was nearly twice the per se level within two-
4 hours of the crash and he had consumed marijuana within a couple hours of the crash. These
5 levels corroborate that he was impaired.

6
7 The State requests bail set in the amount of \$250,000.00. Additional conditions requested include
8 no consumption or possession of alcohol, marijuana, or non-prescribed drugs, no entering any
9 business where alcohol or marijuana are the primary commodities for sale, no driving without
10 filing proof of a valid license, insurance and proof of installation of an ignition interlock device
11 (set at .02), and no moving violations. Should the defendant post bail, the State requests he be
12 transferred to electronic home detention (EHD) with DAJD with alcohol monitoring.

13 The defendant appears to have limited criminal and traffic history that only includes
14 **driving without liability insurance** (6/17/16); other charges have been dismissed. According to
15 his sister, he was living with his father, who just moved to Seattle from Mexico. He no longer
16 has that housing as his father is apparently being cared for by another family member since the
17 collision. He has been in rehab but is being released any day.

18
19 Signed and dated by me this 2nd day of June, 2023.

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21 

22 Amy J. Freedheim, WSBA #19897
23 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Seattle Police Department Case Investigation Report

Case Investigation Report: 2023-77640 TCIS 23-015

Certification for Determination of Probable Cause

That Thaimin Saewong is a Detective with the Seattle Police Department and has reviewed the investigation conducted in the Seattle Police Department Case Number 2023-77640.

There is probable cause to believe that **Delfino Lopez-Morales (DOB: 12-24-1986)** committed the crime(s) of **RCW 46.61.520 – Vehicular Homicide (Two Counts)** within the City of Seattle, County of King, State of Washington.

This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

On 03-22-2023 at about 0017 hours, the Seattle Community Safety and Communication Center (CSCC) began receiving 911 calls regarding a wrong-way driver on the West Seattle Bridge, in Seattle, WA. The information provided was that a white 1980's to 1990's pickup truck was travelling eastbound in the westbound lanes with no lights on. At about 0021 hours, a caller reported a white truck had collided with a Honda and both were on fire

Two witnesses/911 callers were stopped for a red light at Fauntleroy Way SW / 35th Ave SW, the western most access point to the West Seattle Bridge. They reported seeing a white truck driving over the center "C" curb that separated the eastbound/westbound traffic lanes and then proceeding the wrong way (eastbound) towards the bridge. The witnesses said that as the truck moved eastbound, it almost struck vehicles that were travelling westbound.

Four other witnesses/911 callers, driving separate vehicles, were westbound on the West Seattle Bridge at various points reported encountering the wrong way truck. Some of the witnesses/drivers had to take evasive action to avoid colliding with the truck. The witness' speed estimate for the truck ranged from 70-90 MPH.

Seattle Police (SPD) and Seattle Fire (SFD) were dispatched to the scene. While SPD and SFD were enroute, numerous motorists came upon the scene and tried to help the occupants of both vehicles. Off-duty SPD Officer Liliya Nesteruk #7489 was among the motorists. She used her police radio to notify the dispatcher that all the occupants were trapped and the vehicles were on fire. Officer Nesteruk noted that the occupants of the Honda appeared deceased, and the sole occupant/driver of the Chevrolet pickup truck was breathing heavily.



Seattle Police Department Case Investigation Report

Case Investigation Report: **2023-77640** **TCIS 23-015**

Seattle Fire pronounced the occupants of the Honda deceased at the scene – Riley Danard (driver) and Khalea Thoeuk (front passenger), both 18 years old. Seattle Fire extricated the driver of the Chevrolet by cutting off its roof and doors. The driver, later identified as Delfino Lopez-Morales (DOB: 12-24-1986) via a Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) photo, was transported to Harborview Medical Center (HMC) with significant injuries to his legs. The DOL records showed his license status was “Not Licensed – Eligible”.

Seattle Police Officer / Drug Recognition Officer (DRE) Jeffrey To #8467 was called in to assist with evaluating Delfino Lopez-Morales for impairment. Due to Delfino Lopez-Morales’ injuries and him being tended to by HMC medical staff, Officer To was not able to perform an evaluation. Officer To obtained a search warrant to seize Delfino Lopez-Morales’ blood for toxicological analysis by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Toxicology Laboratory. The blood draw was completed at about 0321 hours, about three hours after the collision. Results of the WSP Toxicology Report indicated Delfino Lopez-Morales’ blood-alcohol concentration was above the Washington State per se limit of 0.08. The report stated ethanol was present at a concentration of “0.14 +/- 0.01 g/100mL (k=3, 99.7% confidence level)”. The report also stated a concentration of THC at “2.8 +/- 0.7 ng/mL (k=3, 99.7% confidence level)”.

Evidence at the scene indicated that this was a high-energy head-on collision that occurred in the middle lane westbound lane of the West Seattle Bridge, about a quarter mile east of the Delridge Way SW exit. The front of both involved vehicles sustained substantial contact damage as they were each pushed inward towards the passenger’s compartment. The debris and fluid trails indicated that Delfino Lopez-Morales’ Chevrolet pickup truck was travelling eastbound (wrong way) when it struck the westbound Honda Civic. From the area of impact, the Honda Civic was redirected backwards about 113 feet before coming to rest in the left westbound lane. The Chevrolet pickup truck continued eastbound about 129 feet before coming to rest in the right westbound lane.

Video recorded from a Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) traffic camera showed the Chevrolet pickup truck travelling eastbound in the middle westbound lane of the West Seattle Bridge prior to the collision. The collision occurred outside of the camera’s view. The camera was rotated and caught some of the post-collision movements of the Honda Civic and aftermath.

Based on the evidence I have reviewed, I believe the proximate cause of this collision was Delfino Lopez-Morales’ driving in a rash and heedless manner, indifferent to the consequences while under the influence of alcohol. At the entry to the West Seattle Bridge from 35th Ave SW, he drove over concrete “C” curbing before driving the wrong onto the bridge. He continued



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driving the wrong way across the bridge, past on-coming vehicles, until his vehicle collided with the Honda Civic. His manner of driving caused the death of two people in the Honda Civic.

I would expect that a reasonably alert driver would have noticed on-coming vehicles and at least slowed down or stopped to reevaluate their driving.

Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Signed and dated by me this 2nd day of June, 2023, at Seattle Washington.

Thom Sawang #6957

AGENCY: Seattle Police Department	CASE NUMBER 2023-77640	FILE NUMBER	PCN NUMBER
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SUPERFORM

ARREST INFORMATION	
DATE & TIME OF VIOLATION 3/22/2023	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
DATE OF ARREST/TIME 3/22/2023	ARREST LOCATION WESTBOUND - WEST SEATTLE BRIDGE - 1/4 MILE EAST OF DELRIDGE SEATTLE, WA 98134

SUSPECT INFORMATION		
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE/JR, SR, 1st, 2nd) LOPEZ-MORALES, DELFINO	DOB 12/24/1986	ALIAS, NICKNAMES DELFINO LOPEZ
ARMED/DANGEROUS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	CITIZENSHIP

PHYSICAL DETAILS							
SEX M	HEIGHT 5'03	WEIGHT 140	SKIN TONE	RACE H	EYE BRO	HAIR BLK	SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS							
UCN	PRIOR BA #	AFIS #	FBI #	STATE ID #	DRIVERS LICENSE # LOPEZD*146R4	STATE	SSN

RESIDENCE		EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL	
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS 9409 27TH AVE SW, APT A SEATTLE, WA 98168		EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)	
RESIDENCE PHONE (206) 304-2205		BUSINESS PHONE	OCCUPATION
EMERGENCY CONTACT			
PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY		RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS
			PHONE

CHARGE INFORMATION			
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE Vehicular Homicide	RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE	RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #

WARRANT / OTHER				
WARRANT DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	OFFENSE	AMOUNT OF BAIL	WARRANT TYPE
ORIGINATING POLICY AGENCY		ISSUING AGENCY	WARRANT RELEASED TO: (SERIAL # / UNIT / DATE / TIME)	

PROPERTY INFORMATION		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL #)		
LIST ITEMS ENTERED INTO SAFEKEEPING		
TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE \$0.00	WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AMOUNT: \$0.00	SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS / SERIAL #

OFFICER INFORMATION		
ARRESTING OFFICER / SERIAL # Saewong, Thaimin 6957	TRANSPORTING OFFICER / SERIAL #	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / SERIAL #
SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #)		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME / SERIAL # / PHONE)

COURT FILE		
SUPERIOR COURT FILING INFO <input type="checkbox"/> IN CUSTODY <input type="checkbox"/> AT LARGE <input type="checkbox"/> OUT ON BOND	COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)	
COURT/DIST. CT. NO.	DIST. CT. BONDS	SUP. CT. DATE

EXTRADITE				
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION	SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ID & OR ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ALL 50 STATES <input type="checkbox"/>
E N T R Y	UCN _____ WAC _____ NCIC _____	DOE _____ TOE _____ OP _____	C L E A R A N C E	DOC _____ TOC _____ OP _____