



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **MAN CHARGED IN FATAL HIT/RUN CRASH ON CHRISTMAS**

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a man accused of driving drunk and causing a fatal crash early on Christmas Day in the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Peoria Street.

**Johnny Gilbert** (dob: 08-14-76) is charged with *vehicular homicide* (F3), *leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death* (F3), *vehicular assault* (F4), *second-degree assault* (F4), two counts of *third-degree assault* (M) and *DUI* (M).

The charges allege that Gilbert was driving drunk when he ran a red light while northbound on Peoria Street at 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, crashing into a car carrying a young family home from a Christmas Eve celebration. The crash killed 35-year-old Dora Gaytan-Esparza and injured her husband and two children. Gilbert was arrested shortly after the crash not far from the scene.

Gilbert remains in custody in the Denver Detention Center; his bond is set at \$50,000. He is scheduled to appear in Denver County Courtroom 2100 on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. to be formally advised of the charges.

A fund to assist the family has been set up through Chase Bank under the name of Dora Gaytan.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6

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