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NEWS RELEASE

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL CRASH

A man charged in connection with a fatal hit-and-run just over a year ago has pleaded guilty and gone to immediate sentencing in connection with the case.

Ricardo Gardea (11-04-89) pleaded guilty last week to *vehicular homicide-DUI* (F3) and *first-degree assault-extreme indifference* (F3). He was sentenced to 24 years in prison and ordered to pay \$8,602.34 in restitution.

In the early morning hours of August 3, 2015, near West 44th Avenue and Federal Boulevard, Gardea was driving while under the influence of marijuana and alcohol when he caused a fatal crash resulting in the death of 21-year-old Sebastian Evridge. He then fled the scene of the crash and was arrested nearby a short time later.

Family members of the victim as well as the defendant addressed the court.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Bonnie Benedetti and Deputy DA Jason Kramer.

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