



NEWS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED IN FATAL CHRISTMAS HIT/RUN CRASH

A man convicted of driving drunk and causing a fatal crash at 51st Avenue and Peoria Street early on Christmas Day 2013 has been sentenced in the case.

Johnny Gilbert (dob: 08-14-76) was found guilty of *vehicular homicide (F3), leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death (F3), two counts of vehicular assault (F4), two counts of second-degree assault (F4), two counts of leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury (F4), careless driving resulting in death (T1), two counts of careless driving resulting in injury (T1) two counts of third-degree assault (M) and DUI (M).*

Gilbert was driving drunk on Christmas Eve 2013 when he ran a red light going northbound on Peoria Street at 51st Avenue. He crashed 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 was sentenced to 34 years in prison when he was sentenced last week; the maximum he could have received was a 36 year sentence. The case was prosecuted by Denver Deputy DA Bill Winter and Deputy DA Lara Mullin.

A MADD memorial sign was placed at the corner of 51st and Peoria in January in memory of Dora Gaytan, and a fund to assist the family is set up through Chase Bank, under the name of Dora Gaytan.