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***NEWS RELEASE –***

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**MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL HIT & RUN**

A man charged in September 2017 in connection with a fatal hit and run pleaded guilty yesterday at his pre-trial conference.

**Adrian Valdez-Refugio** (dob: 08-07-1997) pleaded guilty as charged to one count of *vehicular homicide—DUI* (F3) and one count of *leaving the scene of an accident involving death* (F3). His jury trial was scheduled to begin next week.

In the morning of September 17, 2017, the defendant was involved in a two-car crash at the location of E. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Franklin Street, resulting in injury to the Uber driver of the other vehicle and the death of the male passenger in that vehicle, 37-year-old Maroun Khater. The defendant fled the scene of the accident on foot and was arrested later at his residence.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 28, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 5G.