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NEWS RELEASE –

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MAN CHARGED IN VEHICULAR HIT AND RUN DEATH OF PEDESTRIAN

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann has formally charged a man in connection with the hit and run death of an elderly pedestrian.

Gregorio Benavides (dob: 10/01/1981) is charged with one count of *vehicular homicide-DUI* (F3), one count of *leaving the scene of an accident-death* (F3), and one count of *driving under restraint* (M). Charges were filed yesterday.

The charges allege that in the early evening of July 20, 2018, while driving his vehicle the defendant struck and killed 79-year-old Abel Shippley in the 4600 block of N. Elm Court. The defendant did not stop and left the scene. Denver police were able to locate the defendant and his vehicle a short distance away. Upon contact, police noted indicia of impairment.

Benavides is scheduled to appear on August 7, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. in courtroom 2300 for 2nd advisement.

-30-

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