

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney



DA 03-579

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

RE: *People v. Aura Leticia Mijangos; 20CR80025*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that a complaint has been filed in the case involving Aura Leticia Mijangos, 61, of Goleta, California. The complaint charges Aura Leticia Mijangos with vehicular manslaughter in violation of Penal Code section 192(c)(2), a misdemeanor in connection with a Metropolitan Transit District bus crash on October 9, 2019.

In order to prove that a defendant is guilty of this crime, a defendant must have committed a misdemeanor, infraction or otherwise lawful act in an unlawful manner, which was dangerous to human life under the circumstances of its commission, and was committed with ordinary negligence. The difference between this offense and the charge of gross vehicular manslaughter, a felony, is the degree of negligence. Ordinary negligence is the failure to use reasonable care to prevent reasonably foreseeable harm to oneself or someone else. Gross negligence involves more than ordinary carelessness, inattention or mistake in judgement. A person acts with gross negligence when he or she acts in a reckless way that creates a high risk of death or great bodily injury and a reasonable person would have known that acting in that way would create such a risk.

Ms. Mijangos was driving the bus during the incident in which one woman was killed and another was severely injured, while both were waiting at the bus stop at the corner of Chapala and West Figueroa Streets. Several passengers on the bus also sustained injuries. The incident occurred in the first block of West Figueroa Street near the Transit Center for the Metropolitan Transit District.

The case was investigated by the Santa Barbara Police Department with assistance from the California Highway Patrol. The prosecution of the case has been assigned to Deputy District Attorney Sarah Barkley. The defendant is scheduled to appear for arraignment in Department 8 of Santa Barbara Superior Court on August 17, 2020. The District Attorney's Office Victim-Witness Assistance Program is available to provide resources, referrals and criminal case status to victims of this incident. Contact (805) 568-2408 for assistance.
