

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 11-632

RELEASE NUMBER

November 17, 2021

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

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

RE: People v. Jose Fermin Lopez, Case No. 21CR07567

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that a felony complaint has been filed against Jose Fermin Lopez, 24, of Santa Barbara. The charges stem from a collision on November 14, 2021 on Carrillo Street near Miramonte Drive, in Santa Barbara that resulted in the death of Steven Carlson. Lopez was the driver and sole occupant of a 2009 Nissan Altima that swerved out of its lane and into oncoming traffic striking a 1992 Mercedes-Benz driven by Carlson.

Mr. Lopez is charged with the following felony counts: one count of murder in violation of Penal Code section 187(a), one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in violation of Penal Code section 191.5(a), one count of driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23153(a), and one count of driving with a .08% or higher blood alcohol content causing injury, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23153(b). Additionally it is further alleged that Mr. Lopez personally inflicted great bodily injury within the meaning of Penal Code section 12022.7(a).

Mr. Lopez was arraigned today, November 17, 2021, from the hospital, where he is recovering from the injuries he sustained in the collision. Mr. Lopez did not enter a plea, and the arraignment was continued to November 22, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 8 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court. Bail has been set at \$2,000,000.

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