



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Information
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Teen Pleads Guilty as Adult to Vehicular Homicide Charges

Samantha Esparza (DOB 05/02/97) pleaded guilty Thursday as an adult to charges of vehicular homicide DUI (F3) and misdemeanor third-degree assault in the death of a motorcyclist in Commerce City last April.

Gary Mellilo, 52, was killed April 18, 2014 after Esparza, then 16, drove her 2005 Dodge Neon into oncoming traffic and hit Mellilo as he rode his motorcycle in the 7200 block of Highway 2 in Commerce City.

Esparza initially was charged as a juvenile. She entered the plea as part of a plea agreement in which she pleaded guilty as an adult but will be sentenced as a juvenile. This means she can be sentenced to up to two years with the Division of Youth Correction or 45 days at a juvenile detention center plus probation, community service and a \$300 fine. The conviction will be on her adult record.

A sentencing hearing is set for April 3, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in Division E.

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