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**NEWS
RELEASE**

08/26/ 2023

Intoxication Manslaughter Charges in El Paso's 52nd Fatal Crash of 2023

Date of occurrence: August 26, 2023

Time of occurrence: 12:47 AM

1 Vehicle: 2020 Chevy Sonic
1 Driver: 26-year-old Cassandra Yolanda Hernandez, El Paso, TX
2 Vehicle: 2017 Chevy Tahoe
2 Driver: 37-year-old Dulce Rivera Soriano, El Paso, TX
2 Front Passenger: 40-year-old Alondra Soriano Rojas, San Elizario (**DECEASED**)
2 Rear Passenger: 34-year-old Paloma Soriano, San Elizario.

El Paso, Texas—The El Paso Police Department's Special Traffic Investigations Unit is investigating a fatal traffic accident involving two vehicles on Loop 375 East Exit 49 (Zaragoza).

Preliminary investigations revealed that the 2020 Chevy Sonic driven by Cassandra Yolanda Hernandez was traveling eastbound at high speed behind the second vehicle, a 2017 Chevy Tahoe. The Chevy Sonic struck the Chevy Tahoe from behind, causing the Tahoe to hit the right-hand guardrail, roll over, and collide with a large metal support pole.

The Chevy Tahoe was driven by Dulce Rivera Soriano and had two passengers, Alondra Soriano Rojas, who tragically died at the scene, and Paloma Soriano. The driver and the other passenger suffered minor injuries and were transported to Del Sol Hospital.

After the collision, the Chevy Sonic spun out and came to rest. The vehicle subsequently caught fire. Upon arrival, patrol officers suspected that the driver of the Chevy Sonic, Cassandra Yolanda Hernandez, was intoxicated and was charged with Intoxication manslaughter and booked into the El Paso County Jail. Judge Nunez set the bond at \$250,000 cash and \$1,000 PR.

Alcohol and speed are believed to be contributing factors in this crash.

This tragic incident marks the 52nd traffic fatality in El Paso this year, compared to 46 deaths at the same time last year. The El Paso Police Department wishes to remind all drivers to obey traffic laws, drive responsibly, and avoid driving under the influence.

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