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December 31, 2019

Kyle Clifford Herglund pleads guilty to criminally negligent homicide for causing the death of 16-year-old James Freeman

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 22-year-old Kyle Clifford Herglund appeared in Multnomah County Circuit Court pleaded guilty to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) and one count of criminally negligent homicide for causing the death of 16-year-old James Freeman.

According to court documents, Herglund is expected to receive a sentence of 40 months in prison when he is formally sentenced on February 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. with Judge Gregory F. Silver.

Herglund will remain out of custody under the supervision of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Close Street Supervision program.

Upon his release from prison, Herglund will be on three years of post-prison supervision and will have his driving privileges permanently revoked, according to court documents. Herglund will be required to attend the DUII Victim Impact Panel.

This investigation started on April 9, 2018 at approximately 1:15 a.m. when a Portland Police officer assigned to East Precinct came upon a traffic crash near the intersection of Southeast Barbara Welch Road and Southeast Foster Road. The officer located a smoking vehicle on its top approximately 30 feet off the road and down an embankment. Mr. Freeman was trapped underneath the vehicle.

The officer attempted to move the car off of Mr. Freeman but the vehicle was too heavy for him to move without assistance. Mr. Freeman died on scene.

Officers on scene contacted Herglund and determined he was the driver of the vehicle that crushed Mr. Freeman, and that Mr. Freeman was a passenger.

Paramedics transported Herglund to the hospital so he could receive medical treatment for head injuries he sustained during the crash.

Officers with the Portland Police Bureau's Major Crash Team observed Herglund with visible signs of impairment.

Investigators learned prior to the crash, Herglund was in Estacada at a party with friends. He told investigators that he consumed approximately seven beers before getting behind the wheel.

The PPB Major Crash Team determined that while exceeding the posted speed limit of 40 miles per hour, Herglund lost control of his vehicle and went through a guardrail. His vehicle went airborne, hit the ground and flipped. Mr. Freeman was ejected from and then trapped underneath the vehicle.

The family of Mr. Freeman is requesting privacy and does not want media contact at this time.

This case was investigated by the Portland Police Bureau's Major Crash Team and officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's East Precinct.

Multnomah County Senior Deputy District Attorney David Hannon prosecuted this case.

Additional information may be released at the time of sentencing.

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