

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

HAZLET MAN CHARGED WITH VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

On September 21, 2007, Christopher M. Brozyna, 28, of Hazlet, New Jersey was charged with one count of second degree Vehicular Homicide in connection with a fatal motor vehicle collision which occurred on State Highway 35 North in Middletown on September 14, 2007. This collision claimed the life of Ernesto Stamaria, 55, of Old Bridge, New Jersey. Brozyna was also issued motor vehicle summonses charging Driving While Intoxicated, Reckless Driving, Improper Lane Change and Failure to Wear a Seat Belt.

The investigation was conducted by the Middletown Police Department, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Monmouth County Serious Collision Analysis Response Team. The investigation revealed that at approximately 12:10 a.m. on September 14, 2007, Mr. Stamaria was operating a 1997 GMC Jimmy sport utility vehicle north on State Highway 35 in the right lane just south of Chestnut Street when his vehicle was struck from behind by a 2007 Ford Mustang operated by Brozyna. The collision caused Mr. Stamaria's vehicle to rotate clockwise and overturn. Mr. Stamaria was ejected from the vehicle. Brozyna's vehicle came to a stop in close proximity to the collision site.

Middletown Police immediately responded to the scene. Mr. Stamaria was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 3:37 a.m. A subsequent autopsy revealed that Mr. Stamaria died as a result of injuries associated with the collision.

Brozyna was transported to Riverview Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries. Blood was drawn from his person. Laboratory testing of this blood has revealed that Brozyna's blood alcohol concentration was substantially in excess of .08.

Marisa R. Godleski, 24, of Boonton, New Jersey, a passenger in Brozyna's vehicle, was not injured and did not require medical treatment. There were no passengers in Mr. Stamaria's vehicle.

Brozyna surrendered at Middletown Police Headquarters on September 21, 2007 with his attorney. Brozyna's bail was set at \$50,000 with 10% by Superior Court Judge Paul F. Chaiet. Brozyna was released after posting bail.

If convicted of Vehicular Homicide, Brozyna faces a maximum custodial sentence not to exceed 10 years. Vehicular Homicide is subject to the No Early Release Act, which means that, if convicted, Brozyna would be required to serve 85% of any prison sentence imposed before becoming eligible for parole.

If convicted of Driving While Intoxicated, Brozyna faces a mandatory revocation of his New Jersey driver's license for a period of between three months and one year, a fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$500 and a period of detainment at the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center.

If convicted of Reckless Driving, Brozyna faces a fine of not to exceed \$200 and a period of imprisonment not to exceed 60 days.

If convicted of Improper lane change, Brozyna faces a fine not to exceed \$85. If convicted of Failure to Wear a Seat Belt, Brozyna faces a fine not to exceed \$46.

Brozyna is currently employed as a New Jersey State Trooper and was off duty at the time of the collision and operating his personal vehicle. Questions as to Brozyna's employment status should be directed to Captain Albert Della Fave of the New Jersey State Police at 1 609 882-2000 ext. 6514.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated "The death of Mr. Stamaria constitutes another profoundly sad reminder of the tragic consequences of drinking and driving. It is imperative that people contemplate the potential ramifications of driving while intoxicated and make intelligent and responsible choices."

Prosecutor Valentin also requested that any person with information regarding this collision contact Lieutenant R. Craig Weber of the Middletown Police Department at 732/615-2100 or Agent Reginald Grant of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at 1-800-533-7443.

Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and state law.

The case is assigned to Assistant Prosecutor Gregory J. Schweers. Brozyna is represented by Charles J. Uliano, Esq. of West Long Branch.

Released: September 21, 2007