# Coral Gables Police Department 

## Traffic Homicide Report

Case Number 21-005156

Dariceflafie.th
Investigator Daniel A. Smith
Traffic Homicide Investigator

Sergeant Erasmo Lopez
Traffic Homicide Unit Supervisor


Lt. Henry Barnet
Traffic Homicide Unit Supervisor


Crash Date and Time: September 13, 2021at 20:54 Hours
Location: 2300 Block of Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Crash Report Number: 21-005156
DHSMV Number: 89922258
Fatality Investigation: Conducted by Officer Daniel A. Smith

## Case Summary

On Monday, September 14, 2021, at 8:54p.m., a crash occurred involving a vehicle that resulted in the death of the driver and passenger. This crash occurred in the City of Coral Gables at the 2300 block of Alhambra Circle.

The vehicle involved (hereinafter "Vehicle 1") was traveling northbound on Alhambra Circle. Vehicle 1, traveling at an excessive speed, approached the changing traffic signal at the intersection of Alhambra Circle and SR972 (Coral Way). Vehicle 1 accelerated through the intersection in an attempt beat the red traffic signal. Driver 1 lost control and left the roadway. Vehicle 1 turned in a counterclockwise rotation and crashed into two trees. Alhambra Circle is a residential street with a $30-\mathrm{mph}$ speed limit. After traveling through the traffic signal light controlled intersection, Vehicle 1 proceeded to exit the roadway and strike a large tree with its left front. Vehicle 1 rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise. Vehicle 1 then continued northbound another 42 feet until the passenger side of Vehicle 1 collided with a second tree. After the second impact, Vehicle 1 rotated 180 degrees clockwise and came to rest near the second tree. A post-crash fire engulfed the vehicle resulting in the death of driver 1 and passenger 1 .

The first person involved in the crash is Nicholas Garcia, D.O.B 03-09-2001, (hereinafter "Driver 1"). Driver 1 sustained multiple injuries at the time the crash occurred and also sustained traumatic life ending burns when Vehicle 1 sustained a post engulfed fire. Driver 1 was pronounced deceased at the crash location. The second person involved (hereinafter "Passenger 1") is Jazmin Alcala D.O.B. 04-13-2002. Passenger 1 was sitting in the right front seat of Vehicle 1 next to Driver 1. Passenger 1 sustained blunt force trauma injuries at the time of the crash and also sustained traumatic life ending burns when Vehicle 1 sustained a post engulfed fire. Passenger 1 was pronounced deceased at the crash location.

## Fire Rescue Facts

Rescue Truck: City of Coral Gables Fire Department Rescue 1 was the first responding unit to arrive on the scene. Lt. Carlos Martinez (10315) was the officer in charge.

Dispatched: 8:55 p.m.
En-route: 8:57 p.m.
Arrived: 9:01 p.m.
Coral Gables Engine 1 Captain Jonathan C. Ralph (8148)
Dispatched: 8:55 p.m.
En-Route: 8:56 p.m.
Arrival: 9:01 p.m.
Coral Gables Engine 4 Lieutenant Jader A. Tobon (9774)
Dispatched: 8:56 p.m.
En- Route: 8:58 p.m.
Arrived: 9:03 p.m.
Battalion 1 Captain Gilberto Hernandez (6876)
Dispatched: 8:56 p.m.
En-Route: 8:56 p.m.
Arrived: 9:03 p.m.
AirTK2 Sergio S. Morejon (9587)
Dispatched: 8:56 p.m. Christopher Crespo (7931)
En-Route: 8:59 p.m.
Arrived: 9:03 p.m.
Engine 1 arrived to a fully involved vehicle fire. CGFD Engine 1 extinguished the fire utilizing the front bumper line and notified Coral Gables Police on scene of two bodies that were in the vehicle (Driver and Passenger seat). Fire personnel assisted with securing the scene and covered both deceased bodies with yellow body tarps. CGFD Engine 4 remained on the scene in case additional water was needed if Vehicle 1 re-ignited.

## Police Facts

Units Dispatched, En-route and Arrival Times

| C106 | $20: 55$ | $20: 55$ | $21: 04$ | Officer Dash Garcia | (11047) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| C102 | $20: 56$ | $20: 56$ | $20: 57$ | Officer A. Lujan | $(10446)$ |
| C103 | $20: 56$ | $20: 56$ | $20: 58$ | Officer Daniel Chang | $(11091)$ |
| C108 | $20: 57$ | $20: 57$ | $21: 03$ | Officer Christopher Naya (10798) |  |
| C104 | $20: 57$ | $20: 57$ |  | $21: 00$ | Officer Chris Hernandez |
| (10771) |  |  |  |  |  |
| C400 | $20: 58$ | $20: 58$ |  | $20: 58$ | Sgt. Bo Williams |$(10211)$

Police units were dispatched and advised that Vehicle 1 was fully engulfed and occupied. Officers arrived and were unable to rescue the occupants. Officers on scene secured the crash location and identified potential witnesses. Traffic Homicide units arrived and completed the crash investigation. Police units remained on scene for traffic control.

## National Transportation Safety Board Investigators NTSB

On September 18, 2021, I was contacted by Investigator Thomas Barth who stated that the NTSB will be arriving in the City of Coral Gables to assist with the investigation involving Vehicle 1, Driver 1 and Passenger 1. On September 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. a meeting with investigators from NTSB, Coral Gables Police Assistant Chief Nuriddin, Tesla Engineer Aron Smith, Specialized Enforcement Supervisors and Specialized Enforcement Traffic Homicide Investigators met to discuss the crash investigation.

The discussion contained information about the pre and post-crash events, the occupants of Vehicle 1 and events that may have caused Vehicle 1 to crash. Investigators from NTSB stated that they would complete an independent investigation that will be accessible to the Coral Gables Traffic Homicide Investigators for assistance in the investigation.

NTSB Investigators: Thomas Barth (Survival Factors Investigator)
Kenneth Bragg (Senior Accident Investigator)
Eric Gregson (Accident Investigator)

## Vehicle 1

2021 Tesla Model 3<br>FL Tag: 92AGBA<br>VIN - 5YJ3E1EB2MF037962<br>Registered Owner: Mirta Garcia or Nicholas Gabriel Garcia Brakes: Anti-Lock<br>Steering: Power<br>Airbags: Deployed<br>Windows: Factory tints<br>Seatbelt: Cross harness

Vehicle 1 sustained extensive damage to the left front after colliding with a tree. After impact, Vehicle 1 rotated in a counter-clockwise motion and collided with a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. The second impact caused Vehicle 1 to become fully engulfed. Vehicle 1 was towed from the scene and placed at the Downtown Towing impound lot.

On September 14, 2021, I responded to Downtown Towing to inspect the damage to Vehicle 1. Inspection of this vehicle revealed that Vehicle 1 sustained extensive left front and right side damage. The vehicle was destroyed due to the fully engulfed fire that occurred at impact.

On September 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., I met with NTSB Investigators at Downtown Towing. NTSB Investigators were able to determine that the driver of Vehicle 1 was wearing the seatbelt. The Event Data Recorder was removed and transferred to their lab for analysis. The Lithium-Ion batteries were inspected. There were several Lithium-Ion batteries located throughout the vehicle and the surrounding ground area.

The passenger side seatbelt buckle was removed from Vehicle 1 by NTSB investigators and transferred to the lab for further investigation.

## Driver 1

Name: Nicholas Gabriel Garcia
Address: 2107 Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, FL 33134
D.O.B: 03/09/2001 20 Years Old

White Hispanic Male 5' 11 "
United States Citizen
Florida Driver's License Number: G620-627-01-089-0
Organ Donor
Safe Driver Status
Driver license Restrictions: Corrective lenses
Driver 1 was the driver of Vehicle 1. Driver 1 traveled northbound on Alhambra Circle from Sevilla Av. I obtained video evidence from a dash cam provided by a witness also traveling northbound on Alhambra Circle. In this video, Driver 1 passed the witness in the southbound lane of northbound Alhambra Circle. Driver 1 then drove northbound in the northbound lane of Alhambra Cir. Driver 1 accelerated to a high rate of speed and traveled through the traffic controlled intersection at SR972 (Coral Way). Driver 1 lost control of Vehicle 1 drove off of the roadway and collided with a tree, striking the tree with its left front. After impact, Vehicle 1 rotated in a counter clockwise rotation and collided with a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. Driver 1 sustained multiple injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Driver 1 remained in Vehicle 1 when Vehicle 1 became fully engulfed. Driver 1 was removed from Vehicle 1 by the Miami Dade Medical Examiners responding personnel.

## Autopsy Report

On September 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. an autopsy was completed by Dr. Mary Grace Centeno. Dr. Centeno concluded that Driver 1 died due to "Vehicular Crash Injuries." Identification of Driver 1 was confirmed through the use of dental records. The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner Department investigator is Carlos Marmolejo. Autopsy Tech: Marco Wells. Primary Photographer: Heidi Nichols. Medical Examiner Case \# 2021-03331.

## Passenger 1

Name: Jazmine Alcala
Address: 1400 SW 82 Avenue, Miami, FL. 33144
D.O.B: 04/13/2002 19 Years Old

White Hispanic Female 5' 1 "
United States Citizen
Florida Driver's License Number: A424-427-02-633-0
Safe Driver Status
Driver license Restrictions: Corrective lenses
Passenger 1 was the right front seat passenger in Vehicle 1. When Vehicle 1 left the roadway and rotated counter clockwise, the passenger side of Vehicle 1 collided with a large tree. The impact on the passenger side of Vehicle 1 resulted in the death of Passenger 1. The Miami Dade Medical Examiner concluded that Passenger 1 sustained blunt force trauma and remained in Vehicle 1 when it became fully engulfed. Passenger 1 was pronounced deceased at the scene. Passenger 1 was removed from Vehicle 1 by the Miami Dade Medical Examiners responding personnel.

## Autopsy Report

On September 16, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. an autopsy was completed by Dr. Mary Grace Centeno M.D. Dr. Centeno concluded that Passenger 1 died due to "Multiple Blunt Injuries." Identification of Passenger 1 was confirmed through the use of dental records. The Miami-Dade Medical Examiner Department investigator is Carlos Marmolejo. Autopsy Tech: Marco Wells. Primary Photographer: Heidi Nichols. Medical Examiner Case \# 202103332.

## Next of Kin

## Driver 1

Name: Mirta Garcia
Relation: Mother
Address: 2107 Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, Fl. 33134
Telephone: (305) 794-0664
On September 14, 2021, at 12:50 a.m., I made contact with Ms. Mirta Garcia (mother), at her residence to inform her of the death of Driver 1. Ms. Garcia stated that Driver 1 left the residence at approximately $5: 30$ p.m. on the previous day. Ms. Garcia stated that Passenger 1 was with Driver 1 when they left the residence in Vehicle 1. Ms. Garcia provided dental records to the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner for identification purposes.

## Passenger 1

Name: Yoky Alcala
Relation: Mother
Address: 1400 SW 82 Avenue Miami, Fl. 33144
On September 14, 2021, at 1:45 a.m., I made contact Ms. Yoky Alcala (mother), at her residence to inform her of the death of Passenger 1. Ms. Alcala stated that Passenger 1 had left the residence to meet with Driver 1 for the purpose of a personal visit. Ms. Alcala was not aware of the location of the meeting and had been receiving text messages from Passenger 1, stating that she was with Driver 1. Ms. Alcala provided dental records to the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner for identification purposes.

# Witness's and Statements 

## $\underline{\text { Witness } 1}$

Name: Ian Linder Sheldon
Address: 1315 Sorolla Avenue Coral Gables, FL 33134
DOB: 08/09/2000 21 Years.
White Male
Mr. Sheldon (hereinafter "Witness 1") stated that he was traveling northbound on Alhambra Circle from Sevilla Avenue. While traveling at a speed of 40 miles per hour, he noticed a Tesla (Vehicle 1) pass his vehicle in the southbound lane of Alhambra Circle. Vehicle 1 proceeded to complete the pass and move to the northbound lane of Alhambra Circle. Witness 1 stated that Vehicle 1 then accelerated "hard" when he observed the traffic signal at Coral Way change from green to yellow. Witness 1 stated that he observed Vehicle 1 "jump" on the "hump" going through the intersection at Coral Way. He observed Vehicle 1 swerve, "hit" a tree and "explode." Witness 1 immediately dialed "911."

Witness 1 provided a flash-drive with a video obtained from a Go-Pro recording device that was secured on the dashboard of his vehicle. I reviewed the video using the flash-drive that was obtained from Witness 1. The video recording is clear and has a fluid video recording of Vehicle 1 passing Witness l's vehicle and accelerating northbound on Alhambra Cir. The video recording clearly shows Vehicle 1 traveling through the intersection and then colliding with a tree. When Vehicle 1 strikes the tree, Vehicle 1 becomes fully engulfed.

The audio portion of the Go-Pro/flash-drive recording indicates that Witness 1 immediately called police via 911.

Witness 1 also provided a written statement of the events.

## Witness 2

Name: Jorge Luis Perez
Address: 2500 Alhambra Circle Coral Gables, Fl. 33134
D.O.B 07-17-1978

Hispanic Male 33 years

Mr. Perez (hereinafter "Witness 2") stated that he was walking northbound on the sidewalk of Alhambra Circle at the 2400 block. Witness 2 observed Vehicle 1 traveling northbound through the intersection at a "high speed." Witness 2 stated that the traffic signal for Vehicle 1 was red when Vehicle 1 crossed the intersection. When Vehicle 1 drove through the intersection, Witness 2 stated that it appeared that Vehicle 1 "hit a bump." He noticed sparks "fly out" from the bottom of Vehicle 1 "when it bounced on its rear." Witness 2 stated that Vehicle 1 collided with a tree and "flames ejected within moments."
Witness 2 ran to the crash site and requested hoses water and fire extinguishers from surrounding residences in an attempt to extinguish the fire. Witness 2 attempted to extinguish the fire but "had no impact." Witness 2 completed a written statement of the crash events.

## Pre-Crash Investigation

A pre-crash investigation was completed to determine a possible route taken by Driver 1 prior to the crash. It was revealed that on the day of the crash Passenger 1 arrived at the residence of Driver 1 sometime near 5:30 p.m. Driver 1 and Passenger 1 left the residence in Vehicle 1 to an unknown location. Utilizing the City of Coral Gables Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR), on September 13, 2021, at 8:40:46 p.m. EDT, Vehicle 1 was observed traveling southbound on Old Cutler Road approaching SR959 (Red Rd.) The route taken by Driver 1 to travel northbound to Sevilla Av is unknown. Vehicle 1 is observed traveling northbound on Alhambra Circle from Sevilla Av. The driving actions of Driver 1 in Vehicle 1 are recorded through the use of a Go-Pro recording device that is secured on the dashboard of the vehicle driven by Witness 1 . Prior to the crash, Vehicle 1 is observed passing the vehicle driven by Witness 1 . Vehicle 1 accelerated to travel through the intersection at Alhambra Circle and Coral Way.

## Ambience

At the time of the crash it was a partly cloudy night. Temperature was at 78 degrees. Humidity was 94 percent with a wind speed of 3 mph . The roadway is level asphalt. Alhambra Circle south of Coral Way is a two lane local roadway that travels northbound and southbound. On the north side of Coral Way, Alhambra Circle is separated by a grass median. The median grass and ground was damp due to a previous light rain that occurred earlier during the day. The roadway for northbound Alhambra Circle is one lane with a bicycle lane. A sidewalk is located on the northbound east side of the roadway and is separated from the roadway by a grass swale. The southbound side of the roadway is two lanes with a bicycle lane. The lanes allow drivers to turn left onto eastbound Coral Way. Drivers can also travel southbound on Alhambra Circle, southbound on Country Club Prado, or can turn right to travel westbound on Coral Way. The intersection is controlled by a traffic control signal. All roadways were dry at the time of the crash.

## Post-Crash Investigation

Coral Gables Police Department Traffic Homicide Investigators were dispatched and arrived at the secured crash site. Traffic Homicide investigator Daniel A. Smith was assigned as the lead investigator. Upon arrival, Vehicle 1 was located in the center median facing northeast and on the north side of a large tree. Vehicle 1 was still smoldering after being on fire and extinguished by the City of Coral Gables Fire Department. Driver 1 and Passenger 1 were located in Vehicle 1. Driver 1 and Passenger 1 were pronounced deceased on the scene.

Traffic Homicide Investigators were able to determine the path taken by Vehicle 1 prior to the crash. In the northbound lane of Alhambra Cir just north of Coral Way there were gouge marks that indicated that the underbody of Vehicle 1 struck the roadway. Tire marks on the roadway and in the center median indicated that Driver 1 lost control of Vehicle 1. Vehicle 1 turned in a counter-clockwise rotation while exiting the roadway. Vehicle 1 collided with a tree, striking the tree with its left front. Tire marks in the center median, clearly indicated that Vehicle 1 slid in a northbound direction, spun in a counter-clockwise rotation and collided with a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. Vehicle 1 came to final rest facing northeast and on the north side of the tree.
Witness 1 arrived on the scene during the crash investigation and revealed that he was in possession of a video, recorded on a Go-Pro device. Witness 1 stated that the video recording showed the driving actions of Driver 1. Witness 1 stated that the video contained a recording of Vehicle 1 prior to the crash and events that occurred when Driver 1 lost control of Vehicle 1. Witness 1 had transferred the video to a flash drive. The flash drive was transferred from Witness 1to the lead Traffic Homicide Investigator.

## Photographs and Measurements

Photographs of the scene were taken by Traffic Homicide Investigators Cristino Perez (T833) and Whitney Sisney (T835). Photographs were taken from the south side of Coral Way on Alhambra Circle to north of the crash location. Photographs of the gouge marks in the roadway were taken as well as tire marks that were located on the roadway and in the center median. Photographs of the vehicle were taken post fire. Photographs of the damaged vehicle indicate that Vehicle 1 collided with the tree, striking the tree with its right side. Photographs were also taken of the extensive debris field including the detached left front tire of Vehicle 1. Several photographs were taken of Driver 1 and Passenger 1. The photographs indicate that Driver 1 and Passenger 1 remained in Vehicle 1. Both sustained life ending injuries.

Measurements were taken on the night of the crash. Measurements of the first gouge marks north of the intersection to the final resting point of the front bumper of Vehicle 1 were measured at a distance of 250 feet. After Vehicle l's underbody struck the roadway, Vehicle 1 drove off of the roadway 143 feet and struck a tree, striking the tree with its left front. Vehicle 1 turned in a counter-clockwise rotation, continued northbound for 42 feet and collided with a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. After striking the tree, Vehicle 1 rotated around the tree clockwise, coming to final rest 5 feet north of the tree facing northeast.

Debris from Vehicle 1 is scattered throughout the crash scene. The left front tire was located 107 feet from the first tree struck by Vehicle 1. Confirmation that the left front tire struck the tree was indicated by the tree bark wedged into the tire rim and suspension that detached from Vehicle 1.

## Speed

On September 21, 2021, Coral Gables Traffic Homicide Investigators met With NTSB Investigators at Downtown Towing located at 1101 SW 69 Avenue. Vehicle 1 was located in the tow yard, covered with a tarp. Several lithium batteries were located on the ground surrounding the crash vehicle. The interior of the vehicle was exposed due to the extensive damage sustained when the crash occurred.

NTSB Investigator Thomas Barth was the first investigator to inspect Vehicle 1. Assisting with the investigation was the Coral Gables Traffic Homicide Investigators and Coral Gables Fire Department. A Tesla Technical Engineer (Aron Smith) conducted high voltage measurements to identify potential risk.

The Event Data Recorder (EDR) was successfully retrieved from Vehicle 1. The EDR was photographed and identified by the part number and serial number. NTSB Investigator Barth placed the EDR in an evidence bag and labeled the bag with an evidence tag. The EDR remained with Investigator Barth who shipped the evidence to the NTSB lab in Washington D.C.

On September 23, 2021, I received the following information from Investigator Barth pertaining to the EDR. An initial inspection was completed at the lab. Thermal damage was sufficient to cause integrated circuits to be displaced from the board, so an immediate download using traditional connectors is not possible. The NTSB will attempt a more complex procedure of rebuilding the EDR.

On November 8, 2021 I received information from Investigator Barth indicating that the EDR was repaired and the lab was able to gather information using a Tesla process to download the data.

## Speed (Continued)

A review of the EDR report that was reported on October 26, 2021, has sufficient information that indicates that Driver 1 was traveling at a high rate of speed prior to impact. Five seconds prior to the crash, the EDR indicates that Driver 1 was traveling at a speed of 68.0 mph and accelerates to speeds ranging from 68 mph to 90.0 mph . There is a reduction in speed from 90.0 mph to 81.0 mph from 1.6 seconds to .02 seconds and then at 0.0 seconds a speed of 52.0 mph .

I reviewed the video obtained from Witness 1 with the EDR report. Indications are that Driver 1 attempting to travel northbound through the intersection at Alhambra Circle and Coral Way, accelerated to a high rate of speed ( 90.0 mph ) in an attempt to "beat" the red traffic signal. The speed through the intersection ranges from 89.0 mph to 87.0 mph . Driver 1 lost control of Vehicle 1, drove off of the roadway and collided with a tree, striking the tree at a speed of 81 mph . Vehicle 1 rotated in a counterclockwise rotation slowing from 81.0 mph to impact at 52.0 mph .

## Conclusion

Driver 1 left his residence in Vehicle 1 at 2107 Alhambra Circle at approximately 5:30 p.m. Passenger 1 accompanied Driver 1 to an unknown location. At 8:40 p.m. on the same date, Vehicle 1 is observed traveling southbound on Old Cutler Road. Vehicle 1 was captured on an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR). Driver 1 traveled northbound and appeared on a Go-Pro recording device passing another vehicle northbound on Alhambra Circle at the 2600 block. The video was provided by Witness 1 who placed the recording device on his vehicle dashboard. Driver 1 passed the vehicle being driven by Witness 1 and accelerated in an attempt to "beat" a red traffic signal at the intersection of Alhambra Circle and SR972 (Coral Way). Vehicle 1 traveling at an estimated speed ranging from 90 mph to 86 mph , traveled through the intersection. The underbody of Vehicle 1 struck the roadway after Vehicle 1 drove over a "hump" in the center of the intersection. Driver 1 then lost control and drove off of the roadway rotating in a counter-clockwise motion. Vehicle 1 collided with a tree, striking the tree with its left front. Vehicle 1 continued the counter-clockwise rotation and slid while on the grass median and then struck a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. Vehicle 1 struck the tree with such force that it resulted in Vehicle 1 becoming fully engulfed. Driver 1 and Passenger 1 were pronounced deceased at the scene.

Driver 1 at fault.

## FLORIDA TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT

LONG FORM
$\qquad$
UPDATE
MAIL TO: DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY \& MOTOR VEHICLES TRAFFIC CRASH RECORDS, NEIL KIRKMAN BUILDING TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0537

TOTAL \# OF VEHICLE SECTION(S) 1 TOTAL \# OF PERSON SECTION(S) TOTAL\# OF NARRATIVE SECTION(S) 1





[^0]HSMV 90010 S (V/P) (rev 10/10)

Vehicle 1 was traveling northbound on Alhambra Cir. Driver 1 crossed SR972 (Coral Way) and for reasons unknown driver 1 lost control of the vehicle, turned in a counter clockwise rotation and collided with a tree, striking the tree with its left front. After impact, vehicle 1 continued to slide off of the roadway and onto the grass median. Vehicle 1 collided with a second tree, striking the tree with its right side. At impact, vehicle 1 rotated in a clockwise motion and came to final rest facing in a northeast direction and fully engulfed.

Driver 1 and passenger 1 were pronounced deceased on scene.
Crash is under investigation. See Traffic Homicide Report for further investigative information.


HSMV 90010 S (N/D) (rev 10/10)
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    2.MS 3 Law Enforcement

