



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
June 23, 2023
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that on June 23, 2023, **Miguel Holland, (DOB 10/1973)**, a City of Rockford Firefighter, was charged with two counts of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence Resulting in Death and one count of Reckless Homicide related to an incident that occurred on March 6, 2023.

On March 6, 2023 at 11:18 AM City of Rockford Police officers responded to Whitman Street and N. Church Street in reference to a traffic crash. Officers arrived on scene and located the vehicles involved in the traffic crash - a red 2020 Pierce fire truck (VIN 4P1BAAFF6LA021092) and a red 2011 Ford Focus with license plate DD56218.

The driver of the Ford, Marta Esquivias (DOB 04/1966) was unconscious on scene and transported to St. Anthony Hospital with serious injuries. Esquivias remained in the hospital until she succumbed to her injuries on March 6, 2023 at 11:46 AM. On March 7, 2023 an autopsy was conducted which showed Esquivias died as a result of blunt force trauma to the chest.

The driver of the Pierce fire truck, Miguel Holland (DOB 10/1973), a City of Rockford firefighter, was transported to Swedish American Hospital for a blood and urine test.

Investigator Freese spoke with Holland who stated he was driving south on N. Church Street entering the intersection of Whitman Street on a green traffic light when he was alerted by Rockford Fire Department Captain Beaman to watch out for a Ford Focus driving east bound on Whitman Street. Holland further stated that he turned the steering wheel to the left to try to avoid the crash but the Ford hit the passenger side of the fire truck. Holland stated he was driving between 30-35 MPH on Church Street. Holland stated he has not used THC in about 1 week.

Investigator Fick spoke with the passenger of the Ford Focus at St. Anthony Hospital who stated Esquivias was driving east bound on Whitman Street and had a green traffic light when they crashed with the fire truck.



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A download of the Pierce Fire Truck created a sudden speed vehicle deceleration report. The report showed at the time of the brakes being applied suddenly the speed was 46 miles per hour and 1 second prior to the brakes applied the speed was 47 miles per hour and at 2 seconds the speed was 47 miles per hour. The traffic reconstruction of the crash showed Holland's pre-crash speed on the fire truck was between 41 and 44 miles per hour. The speed limit on N. Church Street is 30 miles per hour.

On March 6, 2023, at 1:18 PM Holland consented and completed a legal blood draw at Swedish American Hospital. On March 17, 2023 Holland's legal blood draw results were received from the Analytical Forensic Testing Laboratory and showed his total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of 19.0 +/- 4.0 ng/mL.

Aggravated Driving Under the Influence Resulting in Death is a Class 2 Felony punishable by up to 3-14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and truth-in-sentencing applies at 85%. Reckless Homicide is a Class 3 Felony punishable by up to 2-5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Holland is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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