



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY

201 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450

POST OFFICE BOX 2748

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380-0991

TELEPHONE: 610-344-6801

FAX: 610-344-5905

Thomas P. Hogan
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE

Homicide Charge in Death of Motorcyclist

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the filing of charges against Robert Landis for homicide by vehicle while DUI in the death of Liam Crowley. While driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.28, more than three times the legal limit, the defendant crashed his truck into the victim's motorcycle on Wilmington Pike in Westtown Township on April 26, 2013.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Anybody who drives drunk is in danger of killing another person. Getting behind the wheel of a pickup truck at night on the highway with this much alcohol in your system is like firing a 5,000 pound bullet into a crowd of people."

Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department Chief Brenda Bernot stated, "Liam Crowley would be alive today if Robert Landis had not blatantly disobeyed our laws. But Robert Landis has demonstrated that he does not care about others and his incredibly selfish acts on April 26th took the life of a young man with so much potential and destroyed the lives of those who loved him."

The defendant is 49 years old. He lives with his mother at 928 South Concord Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

The allegations of the criminal complaint and affidavit are as follows:¹

On April 26, 2013 at approximately 10:30 p.m., the defendant was driving a 2004 Dodge Ram pickup truck southbound on Wilmington Pike in Westtown Township, Chester County. He went to turn left onto Stanton Avenue. The defendant turned his truck across the traffic

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

coming northbound on Wilmington Pike, colliding with a motorcycle driven by Liam Crowley. Crowley was transported from the scene and later died from his injuries.

At the scene, the defendant told police that he was the driver of the truck. The police observed that the defendant had bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, and a strong odor of alcohol. The defendant claimed that he only had "a couple of beers." However, subsequent blood testing revealed that the defendant had a blood alcohol level of 0.28%.

Reconstruction of the crash showed that the victim had been driving in a straight line when the defendant's truck collided with him. Numerous empty and full beer cans were found in the defendant's truck. The defendant was driving with a suspended license.

The defendant is charged with homicide by vehicle while DUI, aggravated assault by motor vehicle, DUI, and related offenses.

District Attorney Hogan added, "Another young person has been senselessly killed by a drunk driver. We cannot bring Liam Crowley back to his family and friends, but we will pursue justice against the man who killed Liam."

The Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department was the primary investigative agency, assisted by police departments from West Goshen, Birmingham, Uwchlan, and West Sadsbury. The Chester County Serious Crash Assistance Team responded and worked with all of the agencies. Also assisting were the West Chester Fire Department, West Chester Fire Police, Good Fellowship Ambulance, Medic 91, and the Chester County District Attorney's Office.

Anybody with information about the crime is asked to call Westtown-East Goshen Detective Jon Stafford at 610-692-5100.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan