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Denver officer issued summons in fatal crash

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Article Text:

A Denver police officer who struck a pickup, killing a passenger and seriously injuring its driver, while responding to a distress call in October has been issued a summons for two misdemeanor counts of careless driving, authorities said Wednesday.

Ronald Helm, 42, was rushing to back up another officer with lights and siren activated the night of Oct. 7 when he sped through a red light and into an intersection at Syracuse Street and East 17th Avenue, striking an Isuzu Rodeo. The Isuzu's driver, Jaime Solis-Dominguez, 31, of Denver, suffered serious injuries. Passenger Ulises Solis, 38, was killed. Helm faces charges of careless driving resulting in death and careless driving resulting in serious bodily injury because he failed to exercise the "necessary precautions" when driving through the red light, Denver district attorney's office spokeswoman Lynn Kimbrough said. Helm has been reassigned to nonpatrol duties pending the outcome of the case, police said. Manny Gonzales, The Denver Post