



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Five-month investigation into fatal crash results in negligent homicide and DUI charges for driver

Five months after a single-vehicle collision in Mt. Airy in which the front seat passenger was killed and three others were injured, police have charged the driver with negligent homicide and driving under the influence of alcohol. Karl Joseph Tomanek, 29, of 1170 Shaffersville Road, was indicted this week by a grand jury.

Just before midnight on Dec. 12, 2014, traffic investigators responded to Shaffersville Road in Mt. Airy for a report that a pick-up truck had struck a tree. Investigators believe Tomanek was operating the Ford F-350 that crossed over the center of the roadway, traveled into a ditch and hit a tree. The collision resulted in the death of front seat passenger James Nicholas Dejordy, 26, of Trotter Road in Clarksville.

The occupants of the vehicle were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected in the crash, and it was initially unconfirmed who was driving the truck at the time of the incident. After extensive and detailed investigation and evidence collection, police determined that Tomanek was the driver.

Three other occupants were transported to the Shock Trauma Center and later released.

This week, a grand jury indicted Tomanek on negligent homicide, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and other charges. He was arrested the evening of May 11 and had a bond review hearing May 12. He was released on \$50,000 bond.

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