



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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DA'S OFFICE FILES MURDER CHARGE ON MAN WHO FLED FROM CATHEDRAL CITY POLICE OFFICER WHO DIED IN CRASH DURING PURSUIT

INDIO – Today, May 12, 2011, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office filed one count of murder on the driver of a car who was being pursued by a Cathedral City police officer whose patrol car crashed, killing him.

Cathedral City police Officer Jermaine Gibson was pronounced dead at the crash scene on South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.

About 11:45 p.m. on March 18, 2011, Officer Gibson tried to pull over a black Ford Mustang in Cathedral City but the driver refused to stop, leading Gibson on a pursuit that headed into Palm Springs.

During the pursuit, the officer's patrol car crashed into a palm tree and the Mustang crashed around the same time about 200 yards north of there in front of a Chevron station. Two men were ejected from the Mustang when it crashed.

An extensive investigation was conducted by the Palm Springs Police Department and the California Highway Patrol. After a review of the investigation by senior members of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, charges have been filed against the Mustang's driver.

Durjan Germaine Gray, DOB: 6-29-76, has been charged with one count of second-degree murder, as well as one count each of driving under the influence or alcohol and/or drugs causing great bodily injury, felony evading arrest causing great bodily injury, and engaging in criminal street gang activity.

The counts relating to causing great bodily injury pertain to the extensive injuries Gray caused to the passenger who was ejected from the Mustang.

Gray is currently being housed as an inmate at the California Institution for Men in Chino because he was a parolee-at-large at the time of the fatal crash. Gray will be arraigned on the murder charge at a later date.

The case, INF1101149, is being tried by Deputy District Attorney Anthony Orlando of the Gangs and Crimes Against Peace Officers Unit.