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MURDER CHARGES FILED IN DEADLY DUI CRASH THAT KILLED ONE, INJURED ANOTHER, AND LEFT PUPPY CRITICALLY INJURED

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Joseph Douglas Gray (32, of Fresno) in connection with a deadly crash on Friday that claimed one life and left another victim in critical condition.

It is alleged that on April 10, 2026, in the City of Fresno, Gray was driving his Dodge Charger eastbound on Dakota Avenue, approaching Chestnut Avenue, just after midnight. According to multiple witnesses, Gray ran a red light at a high rate of speed, crashing into a Chevy Cruze traveling southbound on Chestnut Avenue.

The impact ejected the driver of the Chevy. Both the driver and passenger were transported to Community Regional Medical Center in critical condition. The driver later succumbed to their injuries, while the passenger remains in critical condition.

Preliminary results indicate that Gray was driving with a blood alcohol concentration exceeding 0.13%. His vehicle was also reported to have emitted an odor of marijuana. Three puppies were found inside Gray's vehicle; one was confirmed to have suffered major injuries.

The Felony Complaint filed in the Superior Court alleges that Gray committed:

- One (1) count of MURDER [Penal Code § 187(a)],
- One (1) count of GROSS VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER WHILE INTOXICATED [Penal Code § 191.5(a)],

- One (1) count of DRIVING WITH A BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION OF 0.08% OR GREATER CAUSING GREAT BODILY INJURY - COMATOSE AND/OR PARALYSIS [Vehicle Code § 23153(b) and Penal Code § 12022.7(b)],
- One (1) count of DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CAUSING GREAT BODILY INJURY - COMATOSE AND/OR PARALYSIS [Vehicle Code § 23153(a) and Penal Code § 12022.7(b)],
- One (1) count of CRUELTY TO AN ANIMAL [Penal Code § 597(a)],
- One (1) count of DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED [Vehicle Code § 14601.5(a)], and
- One (1) count of FAILING TO STOP AT A RED LIGHT [Vehicle Code § 21453(a)].

It is further alleged that Gray sustained a prior conviction for driving under the influence as recently as December 5, 2025, in Los Angeles County. He also has two additional prior felony convictions.

Additionally, Gray was arrested twice in Fresno County for DUI. The first on September 13, 2024, and again on December 5, 2025, the same day he was placed on probation in Los Angeles County. Both cases were previously filed by the Fresno County District Attorney's Office; however, Gray failed to appear in court. He was on probation for DUI at the time of this offense.

If convicted of all charges and allegations, Gray faces a sentence of 8 years and 8 months in state prison, followed by an additional term of 15 years to life.

Gray was arrested on April 10, 2026, in Fresno, California, and remains in custody pending arraignment. His arraignment is scheduled for April 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 32 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

The case is being prosecuted by the Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program. Funding for the program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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