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## No charges in Newton bike crash

Posted September 23, 2009 04:57 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau Globe Correspondent

No charges will be filed in a recent collision between a 19-year-old bicyclist and a U-Haul truck on a Newton roadway that sent the cyclist, a city resident, to the hospital with multiple injuries, police said.

An investigation into the Sept. 1 accident released Monday by the Newton Police Department concluded "that neither the operator of [the U-Haul] nor the cyclist are at fault for the crash," according to a report written by Officer Rocco D. Marini.

The investigation included statements from the cyclist, Elizabeth Dennis, and the U-Haul driver, Anderson Donascimento, 27, of Waltham, and two witnesses. It showed that Dennis, riding east on Lakewood Road, stopped prior to heading across the Walnut Street intersection, where the collision occurred at 9:51 a.m. The report said the U-Haul was headed north on Walnut Street.

According to Marini's report, Dennis, while riding toward Newton Center on her way to work, "misjudged how much time she had prior to crossing the street with [the U-Haul] approaching."

"The next thing she knew, the van hit her, and she was on the ground," according to the report.

Meanwhile, Donascimento, "did not see the cyclist and therefore has no reaction time to stop before impact," the report added.

Speed was not a factor, police said.

Dennis, who was not wearing a helmet at the time of the collision, was transported to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital where her injuries were identified as "multiple pelvic fractures, rib fractures, [and] lacerations," the report said.

She was discharged to Spaulding Rehabilitation Center where she was being treated this week.

The report said officers noted, "damage to the front grill, hood and bumper [of the U-Haul]". Also, "[the bicycle was] pinned under the van on the passenger side front behind the right front tire" and there was "a trail of scrape marks that appeared to be consistent with a metal bicycle frame or metal pedals grinding into the pavement."

Dennis ended up approximately 61 feet from the point of impact.

The driver told responding officials he did not need medical attention and "that he was just upset about what happened," said the report.

"[Donascimento] heard a thump and saw the top of someone's head by the driver's side corner bumper," said the report. "He further stated that he tried to put his brakes on and tried to put the truck in park. He said he stopped the vehicle, got out of the van and saw the person on the ground behind his van. He immediately called 911. He saw a crowd gathered by the person while he waited by his truck because he thought he was going to pass out."

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