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Newton man to face vehicular homicide charge in death of West Roxbury teen

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 3, 2012 09:54 PM

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Update: To see coverage from Wednesday's arraignment, [click here](#).

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A 48-year-old Newton man has been charged with motor vehicle homicide six-and-a-half months after the car he was driving fatally struck a West Roxbury teenager, according to a statement from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

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Zyoma Vasserman is set to be arraigned today in West Roxbury District Court, prosecutors said. He is charged in connection with the death of 17-year-old [Francis McInerney](#).

On June 14, a black Acura struck the teenager, one of six

young men who were crossing the VFW Parkway near the roadway's intersection with Gardner Street at about 10 p.m. The teen was taken to Brigham and Women's Hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly before 1 a.m. on June 15.

"The charges come after an extensive investigation by State Police detectives assigned to the Suffolk DA's office and troopers assigned to the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section," said a statement by prosecutors, who declined to comment further but said more details are expected at tomorrow's scheduled arraignment.

A [preliminary investigation in the days immediately following the incident](#) had found no suggestion that the driver was impaired or negligent, officials said previously.

In a [statement](#) released the day following the fatal collision, the district attorney's office said, in part: "The driver whose car struck Francis did not exhibit any signs of intoxication or impairment. The preliminary analysis of the scene didn't suggest that he was travelling at an excessive rate of speed or operating erratically, but the collision analysis experts will provide us far greater detail on both of those points. I can say that he stopped his car immediately, remained at the scene, and has cooperated fully with investigators so far."

In that prior statement, District Attorney Daniel F. Conley called McInerney's death "a terrible tragedy" for his family, friends and his local school's community. The 17-year-old died after having recently completed his junior year at [Catholic Memorial](#) and Conley said the teen was preparing for "a bright



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year at Catholic Memorial and Conley said the teen was preparing for "a bright future as a senior and a promising young man."

Conley, who, as he noted in that statement, is an alum of the all-boys college preparatory school and a father of two children, added then that: "As District Attorney, I promise them a full investigation into last night's tragic events and a thorough account of all the facts once they are known."

A previous version of this story used an inaccurate spelling of the defendant's last name and inaccurate information about where he is from, both of which were provided and later corrected through statements from the Suffolk County District Attorney's office.

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