



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE:
166 MAIN STREET
BROCKTON, MA 02301
TEL: (508) 584-8120

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CONTACT: NATHAN LEDERMAN
(508) 584-8120

**BROCKTON MAN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGE RELATED TO 2024
MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH**

BROCKTON – A Brockton man was arraigned today in Superior Court on charges including Murder in connection with a fatal motor vehicle crash last January, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

Natanael Defarias, 23, was arraigned in Plymouth Superior Court on charges of Murder, Motor Vehicle Homicide, Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and three counts of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. Defarias pleaded not guilty to all charges and was placed on \$5,000 cash bail. The Commonwealth had requested bail be set at \$100,000. If released, the court also ordered that Defarias refrain from operating a motor vehicle.

The charges stem from a January 13, 2024 incident where Defarias crashed a Mercedes sedan in the area of 260 Belair St. in Brockton. An investigation following the crash found Defarias had been driving over 100 miles per hour in a residential area, lost control of the vehicle and crashed on the roadway. No other vehicles were involved in the crash. All four occupants were transported to nearby hospitals for medical treatment. Nestor Velasquez, 22, ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Assistant District Attorneys Daniel Higgins and Sean Kennedy are prosecuting this case. The case has been investigated by the Brockton Police Department and Massachusetts State Police.

Defarias is next scheduled to appear in court on March 21 for a pre-trial conference.