



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2026

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Update on the January 16 Traffic Collision

Friday, February 27, 2026 (Gilroy, CA): In response to the fatal traffic collision that occurred on January 16, 2026, at the intersection of Lopez Road and Charles Lux Drive, resulting in the tragic loss of two pedestrians, the Gilroy Police Department has completed a comprehensive investigation. This release provides an update on the findings to date.

The Department's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) conducted a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances of the collision. Based on the evidence gathered, investigators determined that the vehicle was traveling on Charles Lux Drive and, upon initiating a right turn, entered Lopez Way, a private roadway. While making this right turn, the driver failed to yield to pedestrians crossing Lopez Way, resulting in the collision. Investigators identified environmental visual obstructions and physical visual obstructions in the vehicle as contributing factors in the incident.

Additionally, during the course of the investigation, officers documented additional vehicle code violations related to equipment requirements and driver restrictions.

The case has been submitted to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation Department for review. Any charging decisions will be determined by the District Attorney's Office.

The City and the School District are committed to the safety of all users of our roadways. To that end, both organizations have taken action at Las Animas Elementary School and at all of our other schools, including increased police patrols during drop-off and pick-up times, the initiation of an independent traffic study of the intersections surrounding Las Animas School, and improved vehicle safety measures and flow on school properties.

Addressing concerns about pedestrian safety near schools, Mayor Bozzo emphasized, "The City is committed to working closely with the community to improve safety around our schools. Keeping our

community safe is a shared responsibility; it takes all of us looking out for one another. When driving through town, please slow down, stay alert, and help us protect our students and neighbors."

This is a heartbreaking loss for the families involved and for our community. Our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the victims during this incredibly difficult time.

The City of Gilroy pleads with all drivers in our community to slow down and use the utmost care and caution, especially in areas where pedestrian traffic is high, such as school zones.

Anyone with additional information related to this collision is encouraged to contact the Gilroy Police Department Traffic Unit at (408) 846-0350. For media inquiries related to the investigation, please call (408) 846-0347.

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