



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Stoughton woman admits she was drunk When she killed with her car

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The unlicensed drunk driver who crossed the center line of Rte. 138 in Canton on June 24, 2012, striking and killing a Stoughton 64-year-old, pled guilty and was sent to jail today, January 9, 2013.

"We asked that Auricelli Braga be sentenced to 3 to 5 years in the state prison for killing Sara Escudero," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said, after the 32-year-old Stoughton woman pled guilty to both charges against her: Motor Vehicle Homicide by Negligent Operation while Operating Under the Influence and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle. Defense attorney Ron Rice had asked Judge Kenneth Fishman to impose a 1-year sentence.

"The judge imposed 2.5 years in the house of correction with two years incarcerated and the balance suspended during 5 years of supervised probation. Terms of probation include abstaining from drugs and alcohol, and a she must pay a \$1,000 fine for the unlicensed operation," Morrissey said. Nine members of the Escudero family were present for the plea in Norfolk Superior court on Wednesday, January 09, 2013, and four gave victim impact statements. "The defendant is also the subject of an ICE detainer, and will face deportation proceedings after she finishes her incarceration," Morrissey said.

The collision occurred at about 5:35 a.m. in the area of 239 Turnpike Street in Canton, when the black Nissan Sentra that Braga was driving home after a night of partying at the Splash night club in Boston and visiting a friend in Framingham. Her blood alcohol level an hour after the crash was measured at .12 % - one and a half times the per se legal limit of .08, according to prosecutors. A witness who spoke to reporters after the crash said that he had needed to swerve his own car out of Braga's path moments before she struck and killed Sara Escudero. Canton police conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section.

"This was an absolutely senseless loss of life," said District Attorney Morrissey, who met with the family prior to the Wednesday hearing in Superior Court. "The impact on this family and the loss they feel is difficult to put into words. It is clear that Sara was deeply loved, and is now deeply missed."

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.