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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL PASO MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A DEADLY CRASH

EL PASO, TEXAS - An El Paso man who hid in Mexico for six weeks after fleeing the scene of a deadly crash in West El Paso pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in prison.

The 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office announced today that Hector Julian Velasquez, 23, accepted a plea agreement on Feb. 13, 2025, in the Criminal District Court #1 with Judge Diane Navarrete presiding.

Velasquez pleaded guilty to the second-degree felony charge of Collision Involving Death ten months after the crash occurred at the intersection of North Mesa Street and Castellano Drive in the early morning hours of April 28, 2024. According to the indictment, Velasquez was involved in a collision with another vehicle and did not stop to render aid. In the other vehicle were Devan Lovelace, 26, and Eric Leal, 23. Both were critically injured and required hospitalization, and Leal ultimately passed away from his injuries.

In addition to pleading guilty to Collision Involving Death, Velasquez also pleaded guilty to five drug-related charges from 2022 and 2023 and waived all his appellate rights. He will serve all the sentences concurrently in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office commends the work of the El Paso Police Department officers and investigators who investigated this crime.

Assistant District Attorney Veronica Vallejo represented the State of Texas in the prosecution of the case.