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Driver Says He Can't Remember Fatal Crash At Flower Stand

A 21-year-old man told KNBC that he cannot remember what happened before his vehicle crashed into a South Los Angeles flower stand, killing a woman and a man and injuring three other people on Mother's Day.

Images | Video

Harley Darnell Daniels, 21, of Los Angeles, was booked on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence pending further investigation, according to the LAPD.

"I can't sleep at night," Daniels said Wednesday. "I flash back toward the accident, seeing people here laid out."

Daniels' father said he and his son have tried to determine what led to the crash.

"Our hearts are heavy," said father Harvey Daniels. "My son's heart is heavy. We tried to figure out what happened. We don't know what happened."

"There were no drugs. There was no alcohol. It's just simply a tragic accident. It's not only a tragedy for the families, it's a tragedy for the community."

Marilyn Herod, a 56-year-old Riverside grandmother, was killed in the crash at about 7 a.m. Sunday when a 2006 Dodge Charger traveling west on Century Boulevard at South Vermont Avenue slammed into a wrought-iron fence where she had set up her stand, according to the coroner's office and Capt. Bill Sutton of the Los Angeles Police Department's South Traffic Division.

For the past seven years, Herod set up the flower stand with other mothers to sell gift baskets and teddy bears in a parking lot near St. Reed Missionary Baptist Church, which she and the other women attended, according to the Los Angeles Times.

A bar from the iron fence struck her in the head, according to the LAPD. Selvin Herrera, 26, of Los Angeles also was struck and killed, Sutton said.

Two other women and a man were injured, police said.

Rodolfo Rumines, 20, who was also waiting at the bus stop, had back pain and cuts to his forehead, according to The Times.

Daniels was being held at 77th Street Station jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail, Lopez said.

There were conflicting reports on what caused the accident.

Daniels' attorney told reporters his client had worked all night and was headed home when he "blacked out," which, he said, Daniels has done before.

But Sutton said excessive speed may have been to blame, and a witness said the driver appeared to be racing another car.

The car barreled over the sidewalk and plowed into the people before coming to rest atop a mangled iron fence and remnants of the street-corner flower stand.

Some members of the victims' churches ran to the scene, a busy intersection crowded on Sunday mornings with people walking to several houses of worship.

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