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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon: Former New Jersey Cop Sentenced to Maximum 8 1/3 to 25 Years in Prison for Fatal Drunk Driving Crash That Killed Two Passengers

Pedro Abad drove drunk the wrong-way on the West Shore Expressway, causing a horrific crash that killed two of his passengers and seriously wounded a third

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that **Pedro Abad** was sentenced to 8 1/3 to 25 years in prison after previously being found guilty of four counts of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, the top-count against him, as well as two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault, and one count each of Second-Degree Manslaughter, Second-Degree Assault and Reckless Endangerment for driving while intoxicated and causing a fatal car crash on the West Shore Expressway that killed two of his passengers and seriously wounded a third passenger.

Abad, 29, a former Linden, New Jersey Police Officer, was sentenced today by Justice Mario Mattei in Richmond County State Supreme Court, St. George. The defendant received a maximum sentence of 8 1/3 to 25 years to run concurrent on each count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide.

"This sentence ensures Mr. Abad is held accountable for the lives he destroyed when he decided to get behind the wheel and drive drunk," **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. "My thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of all the victims affected by this tragedy. I would also like to thank ADAs Mark Palladino and Frank Prospero for their diligence in vigorously prosecuting this case and ensuring that justice is served."

On March 20, 2015, at about 4:40 a.m., defendant **Abad** was driving while intoxicated when he entered the West Shore Expressway (Route 440) in the wrong direction near the Arden Avenue exit. The defendant continued traveling north in the southbound lane at a high rate of speed, forcing four other vehicles to swerve out of the way to avoid striking his 2015 Honda Civic before he crashed head-on into a tractor trailer without braking. Two of **Abad's** passengers, Joseph Rodriguez and Frank Viggiano, both 28, were killed. **Abad** and a third passenger, Patrick Kudlac, 25, both suffered serious injuries. The driver of the truck was also injured. Earlier that evening, the defendant and Kudlac had gone to Central Park, a bar and restaurant in

New Jersey, and drank whiskey before joining up with Rodriguez and Viggiano. From there, the group drove to Curves gentleman's club on Staten Island, arriving at around 2:21 a.m. Credit card receipts from that evening show that Abad had purchased numerous alcoholic beverages for himself and others throughout the night.

A blood sample of the defendant obtained by search warrant revealed **Abad** had a blood-alcohol content of .24 following the crash. A paramedic who treated **Abad** on scene immediately following the crash also testified that the defendant had a very strong odor of alcohol.

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The case was prosecuted by ADAs Mark Palladino, Chief of the Trials Bureau, and Frank Prospero.

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Defendant Information:

Pedro Abad
DOB 9/22/1987
Linden, NJ

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