

City Man Charged In Fatal DWI Wreck

by Seth Voorhees
Published Oct 16, 2006

A Rochester man is being held on \$20,000 dollars bail following a weekend car crash that left another man dead. Police say Samuel Sierra was drunk when his car slammed into another Saturday near the intersection of Portland Avenue and Norton Street.

The impact sent a car flying, smashing into a nearby business, killing the driver – 45 year old Michael Civiletti.



Samuel Sierra charged with DWI

Sierra was arraigned in city court on drunk driving charges. Prosecutors say he was driving without a license, having lost his earlier this year after another alcohol-related conviction.

“He should not have been driving,” said assistant district attorney Kristin Splain. “He did not have a legal right to do so.”

Sierra's family says Samuel Sierra did not intent to hurt anyone. They say he had been fixing a friend's car before the wreck. According to court papers, Sierra told both the responding officer and an EMT he “Only had a few beers.”

Sierra refused a breathalyzer test.

“He feels horrible,” said Tammy Sierra, the defendant's sister-in-law. “I mean, this was an accident. He was not drunk at the time and the evidence will prove that.”

Sierra previously served prison time for manslaughter, for his role in a 1993 gunfight, in which an innocent victim was caught in the crossfire, and died.

“He's a good man,” said daughter Brisel Sierra. “And for you guys to be talking about his past, I don't think that's right.”

Michael Civiletti was a computer programmer, who leaves behind a wife of 21 years and three teenage children. He was a Navy veteran.

The case against Sierra will be presented to a grand jury, which could consider manslaughter charges.



© 2007 Time Warner Cable
Rochester, NY
All Rights Reserved