

STATE OF MARYLAND

* IN THE

v.

* CIRCUIT COURT FOR

EDDIE ENRIQUE VASQUEZ,

* ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Defendant.

* CASE NO.:

CO224-1916

* * * * *

CRIMINAL INDICTMENT

The Grand Jurors of the State of Maryland for the Body of Anne Arundel County do on their Oath present the following:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. The Anne Arundel County Police Department is a county agency in the State of Maryland, the purpose of which is to be the primary provider of law enforcement services to the citizens of Anne Arundel County. The Anne Arundel County Police Department’s mission is for its officers to prevent and/or solve crime while working in partnership with their community.

2. Eddie Enrique Vasquez, Badge # 2514 (hereinafter “VASQUEZ”) was hired as a sworn law enforcement officer by the Anne Arundel County Police Department on or about September 3, 2020. VASQUEZ completed the Anne Arundel County Police Academy’s entrance level training program on or about April 29, 2021, and completed the Anne Arundel County Police Department’s field training program on or about August 6, 2021.

3. On December 6, 2023, and December 7, 2023, VASQUEZ’s assignment was as a Patrol Officer with Platoon 4 at the Anne Arundel County Police Department Eastern District Police Station.

4. At approximately 11:54 p.m., on or about December 6, 2023, VASQUEZ was in a marked patrol cruiser that was parked in a U-turn lane in the middle of the 6600 block of Fort Smallwood

Road, facing northbound. The cruiser was positioned so that VASQUEZ could observe the southbound traffic coming into Anne Arundel County from Baltimore City and remained stationary for approximately seven minutes.

5. At approximately 12:00 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, four civilian vehicles, including a white sedan with two occupants, drove southbound on Fort Smallwood Road past VASQUEZ traveling at roughly the same speeds with their headlights on. About twelve seconds after the vehicles passed, VASQUEZ made a U-turn and began accelerating toward the white sedan.

6. Private surveillance footage shows that beginning at approximately 12:03 a.m. on or about December 7, 2023, the white sedan began to speed up, putting greater distance between itself and the other three civilian vehicles. VASQUEZ continued accelerating and passing uninvolved civilian vehicles in pursuit of the white sedan.

7. At approximately 12:05 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, near the 7600 block of Fort Smallwood Road, the white sedan was traveling at approximately 92 m.p.h., and VASQUEZ continued to pursue the sedan, trailing it by approximately four seconds while traveling at approximately 115 m.p.h. The speed limit along that section of Fort Smallwood Road is 35 m.p.h.

8. As he drove, VASQUEZ passed another marked Anne Arundel County Police Department patrol cruiser driven by Corporal Kieran Christopher Schnell (“SCHNELL”), who joined the pursuit.

9. VASQUEZ did not activate his emergency lights or sirens or his body-worn camera during the pursuit of the white sedan.

10. VASQUEZ did not radio to dispatch during the pursuit of the white sedan.

11. VASQUEZ did not contact a supervisor about his pursuit of the white sedan.

12. At approximately 12:05 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, the white sedan, which had turned its headlights and taillights off, continued driving along the southbound lanes of Fort Smallwood Road onto the Stoney Creek Bridge. The Stoney Creek Bridge has two travel lanes, one lane northbound and one lane southbound, divided by a double yellow line, and a speed limit of 35 m.p.h.

13. As it drove, the white sedan crossed the double yellow line into the northbound lane to weave around an uninvolved civilian vehicle at approximately 109 m.p.h.

14. Approximately five seconds later, VASQUEZ, traveling southbound and without activating his emergency lights or sirens, crossed the double yellow line into the northbound lane to weave around the same uninvolved civilian vehicle at approximately 123 m.p.h.

15. SCHNELL followed approximately three seconds behind VASQUEZ.

16. On or about December 7, 2023, at approximately 12:06 a.m., the white sedan collided with a utility pole near the 8400 block of Fort Smallwood Road, approximately 3.5 miles from the point where VASQUEZ made his U-turn.

17. VASQUEZ arrived at the scene of the crash approximately four to five seconds after it occurred, activated his body-worn camera, and radioed to dispatch that a crash occurred.

18. SCHNELL joined VASQUEZ a few seconds later and the officers attempted to aid the white sedan's occupants.

19. The front passenger of the white sedan was pronounced dead on scene.

20. The driver of the white sedan was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for injuries and subsequently released.

21. Between approximately 12:18 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., on or about December 7, 2023, VASQUEZ spoke with multiple supervisors about the crash. During those conversations,

VASQUEZ made factual misrepresentations and material omissions to his supervisors about the circumstances of the crash and concealed the occurrence of the pursuit.

22. At approximately 2:59 a.m. on or about December 7, 2023, VASQUEZ wrote a report about the crash. In the report, VASQUEZ made factual misrepresentations and material omissions about the circumstances of the crash that concealed the occurrence of the pursuit.

23. On December 8, 2023, Anne Arundel County Police Department investigators discovered information which indicated that a pursuit occurred and that it was related to the crash.

24. The crash team members informed Maryland State Police investigators about the incident.

25. Maryland State Police investigators subsequently informed the Maryland Office of the Attorney General Independent Investigations Division (“IID”).

26. The IID assumed the pursuit fatality investigation on or about December 8, 2023.


COUNT ONE
(Misconduct in Office)

27. On or about December 7, 2023, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, EDDIE ENRIQUE VASQUEZ, did corruptly and in violation and perversion of his duties as a duly sworn law enforcement officer for the Anne Arundel County Police Department, commit misconduct in office by knowingly, willfully, and intentionally providing oral statements with factual misrepresentations, material omissions, and falsehoods to his supervisors to conceal the circumstances of a fatal vehicle crash, in violation of the Common Law of Maryland and against the peace, government, and dignity of the State.

Misconduct in Office, Common Law
Maximum Penalty: Anything not cruel and unusual
CJIS Code 2-0645

TRUE BILL
FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY

BY: _____
Anthony G. Brown
Maryland Attorney General
Maryland Office of the Attorney General

BY:  _____
Traci Robinson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Independent Investigations Division

Circuit Court: SUMMONS

Tracking No.: 23-7002-00275-3

Prosecutor: Assistant Attorney General Traci Robinson

Description: African American/Black Male, DOB: [REDACTED]