



# **MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

911 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056



**John Koziol**  
Chief of Police

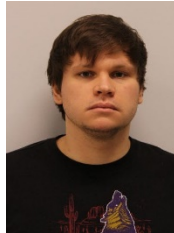
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April 8, 2021

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Officer Greg Sill  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Driver Charged With Three Counts Of Reckless Homicide In Fatal Traffic Crash**



**Garrett M. Kowalski**

On Thursday, April 8, 2021 the Mount Prospect Police Department announced the arrest of Garrett M. Kowalski, 25 years old, of 500 N. Third Avenue, Des Plaines, for three counts of Reckless Homicide, three counts of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and one count of possession of a controlled substance. These charges stem from the traffic crash that took place on Sunday, March 7, 2021 on Rand Road (Route 12) and Mt. Prospect Road where Garrett Kowalski was the driver of a gold Ford Escape that struck a white Honda Accord, killing Francisco Flores Rodriguez, Georgina Perez Gomez and Francisco Javier Flores Perez, who were occupants of the Honda. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office approved charges of three (3) felony counts of Reckless Homicide, three (3) felony counts of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence and one (1) felony count of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Sunday, March 7, 2021 at approximately 7:44 AM, the Mount Prospect Police Department responded to the report of a rollover traffic crash with entrapment on Rand Road (Route 12) and Mt. Prospect Road involving two vehicles. Officers located a traffic crash on Rand Road, northwest of the intersection with Mt. Prospect Road, involving a white colored Honda sedan with heavy damage and a gold colored Ford SUV, which had heavy front end damage and flipped over onto the roof of the vehicle. Officers arrived and found the three occupants of the Honda were deceased. The traffic crash was investigated by the Mount Prospect Police Department Major Crash Investigation Team, along with the assistance from the Major Case Assistance Team's Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction (STAR) Team.

The investigation revealed that Garrett Kowalski left his home, in the gold Ford, and began travelling northwest bound on Rand Road (Route 12) from Third Avenue, where he accelerated

*With COURAGE we protect, with COMPASSION we serve.*



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to a high rate of speed. Scene evidence, witness statements and surrounding businesses' camera footage indicated Kowalski ran the red light at Wolf Road and continued on Rand Road until he drove into the intersection of Mt. Prospect Road, running the red light and striking the white Honda's driver's side, killing the three occupants. The Honda was found to be entering southbound into the intersection on a green light. Based on a search warrant executed download of the Ford's crash data recorder, the approximate speed of the Ford when it struck the Honda was approximately 108 mph. This impact killed the 3 occupants of the Honda and Kowalski was transported to a local area hospital for treatment of his injuries. Subsequent to the crash, Des Plaines Police Department responded to a 911 call at Kowalski's apartment for an unsecured front door. Due to narcotics being observed in plain view by the Des Plaines Police Officer, Mount Prospect Police obtained a search warrant for Kowalski's apartment, where a white powdery substance was located laid out in a manner to suggest recent use. The white powder was sent to be tested at the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory, where the presence of Ketamine was confirmed. Ketamine is a controlled substance, classified as a dissociative anesthetic. Ketamine is an impairing substance when ingested into the body that can render a person unable to operate a motor vehicle safely. A search warrant was obtained to retrieve Kowalski's blood sample that was drawn shortly after the crash while he was being treated at the hospital. The blood sample was submitted to the crime lab which tested positive for the presence of ketamine.

After the lab results were obtained, Mount Prospect Police requested Kowalski to surrender himself, which he did on the evening of Thursday, April 8, 2021, where he was formally charged with three (3) felony counts of Reckless Homicide, three (3) felony counts of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and one (1) felony count of Possession of a Controlled Substance. Kowalski will be transported to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 1:30 PM in Room 108 for a bond hearing related to the charges brought against him.

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