

**District Attorney's
Office**

State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

July 15, 2025

Man pleads guilty in vehicular death of Charlotte woman

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Yesterday, after being called for trial for the 2020 vehicular death of 54-year-old Rosselyn Mechele Torrence, Kristian Barboza pled guilty to all charges. The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team prosecuted the case. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5370, before the Honorable George C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

When he was called for trial, Kristian Barboza, 24, pled *guilty as charged*, with no concessions from the State, to 1) involuntary manslaughter and 2) felony death by vehicle. In his discretion, Judge Bell sentenced Barboza to 51-74 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of the probation, Barboza must serve a split sentence of 180 days in jail.

On March 25, 2020, just before 9 p.m., the victim, Rosselyn Mechele Torrence was driving on University City Boulevard when Kristian Barboza sped past two on-duty Mecklenburg County Sheriff's deputies and ran a red light at the intersection of North Tryon Street and University City Boulevard. As the defendant sped through the red light at up to 67 mph in a 35 mph zone, he struck Ms. Torrence's car broadside forcing Ms. Torrence and her car into the wall of the overpass. Due to the location and damage to Ms. Torrence's car, it took the Charlotte Fire Department approximately 30 minutes to extricate Ms. Torrence from her vehicle. During that time, Barboza tried to leave the scene and fought the deputies who were attempting to detain him. Once restrained, the defendant was transported to the hospital where he admitted to both Medic personnel (in the presence of officers) and hospital staff that he had consumed marijuana and acid that night prior to driving. Lab testing confirmed the presence of THC and THC metabolites in the defendant's blood. Officers also located additional marijuana in the defendant's vehicle, which he admitted to retrieving before leaving the house to drive that night. Ms. Torrence suffered severe injuries from the crash, and ultimately succumbed to those injuries on July 30, 2020, after multiple episodes of cardiac arrest, kidney failure, septic shock, and multi-system organ failure following prolonged hospitalization.

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