

**District Attorney's  
Office**  
State of North Carolina  
26th Prosecutorial District  
Mecklenburg County

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# NEWS RELEASE

**Spencer B. Merriweather  
III**  
District Attorney

**March 29, 2026**

## **Employee charged with felony**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In the early morning hours of Saturday, March 28, Johana Martinez, a staff member of the District Attorney's Office serving in a non-lawyer position, was involved in a collision, resulting in the fatality of a person in another vehicle. The State Highway Patrol has secured criminal warrants against Ms. Martinez charging her with Felony Death by Vehicle among other charges. Upon learning of this incident, DA Merriweather initiated the immediate termination of Ms. Martinez. While those charged with a crime have a right to a fair trial, a pending arrest warrant supported by probable cause for such a violation is incompatible with values of fidelity to the law and high standards of personal conduct that the DA's Office demands. DA Merriweather has sought the appointment of a special prosecutor outside of this office to prosecute this case. We are devastated for the family of the slain driver, and they remain in our prayers in this hour of loss.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [X](#), & [Instagram](#).*

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