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Victim couldn't avoid crash, expert says

Calculations show suspect hit speed of 77 mph in triple fatal

By April M. Washington
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

AURORA — The driver of the Chevy Suburban involved in the Sept. 4 crash that killed two women and a toddler at an ice cream shop ran a red light at 77 mph — making it impossible for the driver of a pickup to avoid the collision, said an expert who reconstructed the accident.

The SUV driver, Francis Hernandez, hit the Mazda pickup at such a high speed and with such force that it pushed the truck more than 100 feet into a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop, said Donald Fyombo, a licensed insurance adjuster and investigator.

Two women in the pickup truck, driver Patricia Guntharp, 49, of Centennial, and Debbie Serecky, 51, of Aurora, were killed. They were turning left into a Good Times restaurant when they were broadsided by the southbound SUV on South Havana Street, police said. The speed limit on the street is 40 mph.

Marten Kudlis, 3, was killed when the careening wreckage snared him from a window seat at Baskin-Robbins and dragged him to his death.

Hernandez, 23, an illegal im-

portant his fault."

Fyombo contacted the Rocky Mountain News and invited a reporter to watch him take measurements and make calculations that are the basis of his conclusions. Both visited the accident scene Friday evening.

Fyombo said he is not working for anyone involved in the collision or the investigation. He contacted the newspaper, he said, because he was perplexed by comments made to the Rocky by Kallman Elinoff, the attorney who represents Hernandez. In a recent interview, Elinoff suggested Guntharp was at fault.

"I've been reconstructing accidents for over 20 years, and I've driven around the area and made that same turn before," Fyombo said. "The attorney's assessment of the crash didn't add up. That's why I'm out here."

In a story published Sept. 16, Elinoff charged that Guntharp crossed the double-yellow line and made an illegal left turn 40 yards from the intersection of South Havana Street and East Mississippi Avenue, causing the crash. "This kid (Hernandez) was in the far right lane, and he wasn't expecting this woman to scoot in front of him," Elinoff told the newspaper. "She never looked to see if anyone was coming."

But Fyombo has another viewpoint. "As a scientist all I can tell you is what the physical evidence tells me. ... There was no way to see him coming."

Elinoff could not be reached Tuesday for comment on Fyombo's findings, which are based, in part, on the force of impact and



Serecky Guntharp Kudlis

Ice cream shop crash

Donald Fyombo, a licensed insurance adjuster, examined the scene of the Sept. 4 collision between a Chevy Suburban and a Mazda pickup truck that sent both vehicles careening toward a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop on South Havana Street in Aurora. Two women in the pickup, Debbie Serecky, 51, of Aurora, and Patricia Guntharp, 49, of Centennial, were killed, as was Marten Kudlis, 3, of Aurora, who was in Baskin-Robbins with his mother.

Points 2, 3 and 4 are Fyombo's conclusions based on his measurements.



Fyombo said lawyer's crash assessment didn't add up.



Hernandez is being held in the Arapahoe County jail.