

DEE MARGO  
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ  
CITY MANAGER



**CITY COUNCIL**

PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1  
ALEXSANDRA ANNELLO DISTRICT 2  
CASSANDRA HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT 3  
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ISABEL SALCIDO, DISTRICT 5  
CLAUDIA ORDAZ PEREZ, DISTRICT 6  
HENRY RIVERA, DISTRICT 7  
CISSY LIZARRAGA, DISTRICT 8

12/17/2019

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Update El Paso's 64th and 65<sup>th</sup> Traffic Fatalities**

Date: December 16, 2019

Offender: 73 –year old Juan Martinez of the 12700 block of Mark Twain

El Paso, Texas - The wrong way driver that caused a crash killing two, and seriously injuring a third person was booked yesterday afternoon. 73 –year old Juan Martinez was released from the hospital and booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility. Martinez was charged with two counts of Intoxication Manslaughter and one count of Intoxication Assault under bonds of \$300,000.

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**Media Contact:**

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**HISTORY**

Date: 12/07/2019

Time: 7:33 pm

Location: Loop 375 West MP 59 (near Bowie High School)

Vehicle 1: 1999 Toyota 4Runner

Driver (**Arrested**): 73 –year old Juan Martinez of the 12700 block of Mark Twain, El Paso, TX

Vehicle 2: 2017 Toyota Corolla

Driver (**Deceased**): 25 –year old Elide Yvonne Garcia of Las Cruces, NM

Passenger: 29 –year old Alberto Cuellar (serious injuries)

Rear Passenger (**Deceased**): 6 –year old Jose Luis Wences of Las Cruces, NM

Special Traffic Investigators were called to assist Central Regional Command patrol officers with a head on collision late yesterday evening. The investigation revealed 73 year old Juan Martinez was traveling the wrong way (eastbound) on Loop 375 West, MP 59 in a 1999 Toyota 4Runner. Simultaneously, 25 year old Elide Yvonne Garcia was traveling west in a 2017 Toyota Corolla, in the same lane of traffic. The 4Runner collided head on with the Corolla resulting in the immediate death of the rear passenger, 6 year old Jose Luis Wences. The child's mother, driver Elide Yvonne Garcia, suffered grave injuries and died at a local hospital shortly thereafter. The front passenger, Alberto Cuellar, suffered serious injuries and remains in the hospital in critical condition. Martinez suffered minor injuries and was transported to

*Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community*

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the hospital where he was placed under arrest for two counts of Intoxication Manslaughter. Martinez will be booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility pending release from the hospital.

These are the 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> traffic fatalities of 2019 compared to 64 this time last year.

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