
Alleged victim in Quincy rape case killed in fiery crash

17-year-old from Woburn killed in Malden

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MALDEN, Mass. -

The alleged victim in the statutory rape case against Quincy developer William O'Connell is dead.

Police told our news partners at the Patriot Ledger that the 17-year-old woman from Woburn was the driver killed in a fiery early morning car crash in Malden on Tuesday.

A passenger, a 19-year-old woman from Woburn, survived the crash and is being treated at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Malden Police Lt. Det. Marc Gatcomb said the crash occurred in a residential section of Malden around 3:30 a.m. The car struck granite curbing in front of a Medford Street home, then hit a set of concrete stairs, propelling the vehicle into the air and a sign pole, he said.

Gatcomb said speed was a factor in the crash. Police have no evidence to indicate drugs or alcohol was a factor, he said.

"It's still actively under investigation," Gatcomb said Wednesday morning. The accident is being investigated by Malden Police and the State Police accident reconstruction team.

O'Connell and a co-conspirator, Phyllis Capuano, 22, of Everett, were indicted last year on statutory rape charges connected to O'Connell's interactions with the alleged victim in 2009.

O'Connell is also facing a cocaine trafficking charge connected to substances police found in his Marina Bay condominium. The condominium was raided after a search warrant was obtained based on statements the alleged rape victim made to investigators.

The teen was a key witness in the case against O'Connell. It is not yet clear what effect this will have on the case.

NewCenter 5 does not identify the victims of sex crimes, so the teen's name has been withheld from this story.

