

Fatal crash may not be cop's fault

A Queens detective facing manslaughter charges in a fatal accident may not have been at fault, according to a report prepared for the Queens district attorney.

Off-duty Detective Robert Bolson is charged with plowing his 1986 Ford Mustang into the driver's side of a Ford Taurus, killing Federico Hurtado in Queens Village on April 26, 1998.

The report, obtained by the Daily News, concludes that although Bolson was speeding, "the major cause of this accident was the failure of Federico Hurtado to yield proper right of way at the stop sign, thus entering into the path of the northbound Mustang which had the right of way."

Court papers also indicate that a sample of Bolson's blood taken after the accident gave varying blood alcohol readings, from a high of .14% to a low of zero.

Austin Fenner

Accident Reconstruction Analysis

Preliminary Report

People v. Robert J. Bolson

Accident Date:	Sunday, April 26, 1998
Accident Time:	2135 hours
Accident Location:	222 nd St. at 93 rd Ave. Borough of Queens City of New York State of New York
Prepared for:	Mr. James M. Liander Deputy Chief, Integrity Bureau Queens County District Attorney's Office
Prepared by:	Collision Research Ltd. Richard S. Hermance Accident Reconstruction Expert Tillson, New York July 1998

BACKGROUND

On Sunday, April 26, 1998 at approximately 2135 hours, a two vehicle accident took place at the intersection of 222nd Street and 93rd Avenue, in the Borough of Queens, City of New York, State of New York. This collision involved a 1986 Ford Mustang driven by Robert J. Bolson and a 1987 Ford Taurus driven by Federico Hurtado. Bolson was the sole occupant of his vehicle and Hurtado had a right front seat passenger, Hilda Hurtado in his vehicle.

The basic mode of happening of this accident consisted of the 1987 Ford Taurus Wagon driven by Hurtado traveling westbound on 93rd Avenue at which time it failed to yield at a stop sign, entered into 222nd Street, and was impacted by the northbound 1986 Ford Mustang driven by Robert J. Bolson.

FINDINGS

Based on this writers' examination of the Police Report; first hand examination of the accident site; first hand examination of the 1986 Ford Mustang involved in this accident; first hand examination of the 1987 Ford Taurus wagon involved in this accident; examination of measurements taken by the New York City Police Department; as well as the application of standard & commonly accepted principles of scientific automobile accident reconstruction, application of standard & commonly accepted laws of physics, along with this writer's knowledge, training and experience as an accredited expert in the field of scientific automobile accident reconstruction;

The following opinions and conclusions are drawn, based on the data reviewed, and are so drawn to within a reasonable degree of scientific and professional certainty:

1. That the accident did occur at the same approximate time, date and location as indicated on the police report.
2. That vehicle one on the police report, the 1986 Ford Mustang driven by Robert J. Bolson, sustained frontal damage from impact as shown in the following photographs.
3. That vehicle two on the police report, the 1987 Ford Taurus wagon driven by Federico Hurtado, sustained left sided damage resultant of this accident as illustrated in the following photographs.
4. That there was a stop sign in place and visible controlling the entry of traffic westbound on 93rd Avenue into 222nd Street.
5. That at this intersection, traffic on 222nd Street has the right of way and there are no stop signs for either north or southbound traffic on 222nd Street.
6. That at impact with the 1987 Ford Taurus, the 1986 Ford Mustang driven by Robert J. Bolson was traveling at approximately 52 miles per hour.
7. That it would take the Hurtado vehicle approximately two seconds to get from the edge line of the intersection of 222nd Street and 93rd Avenue to the point of impact. This estimate is assuming that he stopped at the stop sign and then pulled out. Based on this estimate, and the estimate that the 1986 Ford Mustang was traveling at 52 miles per hour or 76' per second, the Mustang would have been approximately 152' away from the point of impact when Mr. Hurtado either pulled out or went into the intersection. The Bolson vehicle, at 150', with its headlights on, would be clearly visible to traffic stopped on 93rd Avenue properly to check on coming north and southbound traffic before pulling in and through the intersection.
8. That although the police car was traveling above the speed limit, **the major cause of this accident was the failure of Federico Hurtado to yield proper right of way at the stop sign, thus entering into the path of the northbound mustang which had the right of way at the intersection.**