

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2026

Chatham County Police Department Investigates Fatal Traffic Collision

Chatham County, GA (February 16, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department has taken a man into custody and will charge him with felony first degree vehicular homicide after a fatal traffic collision on Whitefield Avenue this morning.

Thirty-eight-year-old Oscar Vasquez Lopez has been taken into custody and will also face several traffic charges in connection with the death of the adult female driver of a vehicle that his vehicle collided with this morning. He is expected to be booked into the Chatham County Detention Center later today.

At approximately 7:45 a.m., Chatham County Police Department officers responded to a traffic collision on Whitefield Avenue at the Truman Parkway intersection. The drivers of both vehicles were transported to the hospital, where the female driver was pronounced deceased. Lopez received non-life-threatening injuries. There were no other passengers in either vehicle.

The preliminary investigation by the Chatham County Police Department Traffic Unit found that Lopez crashed into the victim's vehicle while fleeing from federal Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS/ICE) officers who were attempting to initiate a traffic stop.

The collision occurred a short distance from the Chatham County Police Department's Whitefield precinct and Chatham County Police Department officers on routine patrol were on the scene almost immediately.

However, the Chatham County Police Department was not a part of the DHS/ICE operation, attempted traffic stop, or pursuit. The Chatham County Police Department was also not aware of the DHS/ICE operation or pursuit until after the crash.

Questions regarding the nature of the DHS/ICE investigation, operation, attempted traffic stop, and pursuit should be forwarded to those agencies.

The Chatham County Police Department does not anticipate having further comment on this traffic accident investigation since an arrest has been made and this is an ongoing investigation with much work to be done.

###

Media Contact:

Betsy Nolen
Public Information Officer
Chatham County Police Department
Cell: (912) 675-2949

