

Steven Hagen

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 1:56 PM
To: aaron.gilman@helenair.com; apmontana@ap.org; Bliss Zechman; Darci Goodrich; Dennis Carlson; Donald Cyphers; Jesse Chaney; Jessica Watts; KFBB Newsroom; News KTVH; News KXLH; Maria Kirkpatrick; Masaki Nakagawa; Melissa Jensen; montananews@treasurestateradio.com; news@montanaradio.com; sarah.gravlee@abcfoxmontana.com; Thomas Plank; Tom Kuglin; Amanda Opitz; Ana Cortez; Brett Petty; Cory Bailey; Curt Stinson; Farah Lane; Jayson Zander; Jeff Sealey; Leo Gallagher; Steven Hagen; Thomas Jodoin
Subject: Vehicle accident May 20, 2019

On May 20, 2019, at approximately 6:42 PM the Helena Police responded to the 300 block of Lyndale on a report of a hit and run accident. The caller, a 35 year old female from Butte, said she was driving her 2015 Honda CRV southbound on Last Chance Gulch. She stopped before turning westbound on Lyndale. When she stopped, her vehicle was struck from behind by a 2016 Mazda CX-5. She pulled over and the Mazda continued west on Lyndale. She was able to contact the driver in a parking lot in the 300 block of Euclid. The drivers met and discussed the incident. The driver of the Mazda, Wilmot J. Collins, 55 of Helena, provided his business card and departed. Officers met with both involved parties the night of the incident. Both vehicles had minor damage and there were no injuries. The case was forwarded to the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office for review due to a conflict of interest with the Helena City Attorney's Office. The County Attorney determined that Mr. Collins would be cited for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident. On May 23, 2018, Collins was served with citations for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, both misdemeanors. He was instructed to appear in Lewis and Clark County Justice Court at 8:30 AM on May 28, 2019.

This will be the only information released on this incident. I am the only member of the department that will be providing information on this incident and I am off until May 28, 2019. Please enjoy the holiday weekend. Steve

Steven Hagen

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 2:20 PM
To: Wilmot Collins
Subject: Fw: Vehicle accident May 20, 2019

Mayor Collins, here is the press release. Steve

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 1:55 PM
To: aaron.gilman@helenair.com; apmontana@ap.org; Bliss Zechman; Darci Goodrich; Dennis Carlson; Donald Cyphers; Jesse Chaney; Jessica Watts; KFBB Newsroom; News KTVH; News KXLH; Maria Kirkpatrick; Masaki Nakagawa; Melissa Jensen; montananews@treasurestateradio.com; news@montanaradio.com; sarah.gravlee@abcfoxmontana.com; Thomas Plank; Tom Kuglin; Amanda Opitz; Ana Cortez; Brett Petty; Cory Bailey; Curt Stinson; Farah Lane; Jayson Zander; Jeff Sealey; Leo Gallagher; Steven Hagen; Thomas Jodoin
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Steven Hagen

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Leo Gallagher
Cc: Thomas Jodoin
Subject: Press Release on Mayor's Crash

Here is a draft I will send out when calls start coming in. Let me know if there are any changes. Thanks-Steve

On May 20, 2019, at approximately 6:42 PM the Helena Police responded to the 300 block of Lyndale on a report of a hit and run accident. The caller, a 35 year old female from Butte, said she was driving her 2015 Honda CRV southbound on Last Chance Gulch. She stopped before turning westbound on Lyndale. When she stopped her vehicle was struck from behind by a 2016 Mazda CX-5. She pulled over and the Mazda continued west on Lyndale. She was able to contact the driver in a parking lot in the 300 block of Euclid. The drivers met and discussed the incident. The driver of the Mazda, Wilmot J. Collins, 55 of Helena, provide his business card and departed. Officers met with both involved parties the night of the incident. Both vehicles had minor damage and there were no injuries. The case was forwarded to the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office for review due to a conflict of interest with the Helena City Attorney's Office. The County Attorney determined that Mr. Collins would be cited for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident. On May 23, 2018, Collins was served with citations for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, both misdemeanors. He was instructed to appear in Lewis and Clark County Justice Court at 8:30 AM on May 28, 2019.

Steven Hagen

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 7:41 AM
To: Leo Gallagher
Cc: Thomas Jodoin
Subject: Re: Press Release on Mayor's Crash

I agree and don't plan on releasing anything unless we are contacted by the press. I'm planning on treating it like any other minor crash. Thanks-Steve

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From: Leo Gallagher <lgallagher@lccountymt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 8:53 PM
To: Steven Hagen
Cc: Thomas Jodoin
Subject: Re: Press Release on Mayor's Crash

Looks fine. Maybe he will just pay the fine. I don't see a need to release this unless the press asks.

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From: Steven Hagen <shagen@helenamt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Leo Gallagher
Cc: Thomas Jodoin
Subject: Press Release on Mayor's Crash

Here is a draft I will send out when calls start coming in. Let me know if there are any changes. Thanks-Steve

On May 20, 2019, at approximately 6:42 PM the Helena Police responded to the 300 block of Lyndale on a report of a hit and run accident. The caller, a 35 year old female from Butte, said she was driving her 2015 Honda CRV southbound on Last Chance Gulch. She stopped before turning westbound on Lyndale. When she stopped her vehicle was struck from behind by a 2016 Mazda CX-5. She pulled over and the Mazda continued west on Lyndale. She was able to contact the driver in a parking lot in the 300 block of Euclid. The drivers met and discussed the incident. The driver of the Mazda, Wilmot J. Collins, 55 of Helena, provide his business card and departed. Officers met with both involved parties the night of the incident. Both vehicles had minor damage and there were no injuries. The case was forwarded to the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office for review due to a conflict of interest with the Helena City Attorney's Office. The County Attorney determined that Mr. Collins would be cited for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident. On May 23, 2018, Collins was served with citations for Careless Driving and Failure to Remain at the Scene of an Accident, both misdemeanors. He was instructed to appear in Lewis and Clark County Justice Court at 8:30 AM on May 28, 2019.

Steven Hagen

From: Steven Hagen
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Leo Gallagher; Angela Bahnmler; Cathy Salo; Elizabeth Hines; Lynne Whitaker; Shelley Gleich; Jason Squires
Cc: Randy Robinson; Josh Nemeth; Benjamin Langford
Subject: RE: Citations

One correction 447-8487 is my number. Steve

From: Leo Gallagher
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:53 PM
To: Angela Bahnmler; Cathy Salo; Elizabeth Hines; Lynne Whitaker; Shelley Gleich; Jason Squires
Cc: Randy Robinson; Josh Nemeth; Benjamin Langford; Steven Hagen
Subject: FW: Citations

Fyi for the front desk/JP folks:

After reviewing the accident report, I asked Randy Robinson to issue citations to Mayor Collins for careless driving and a violation of 61-7-103 –(failure to immediately stop at an accident scene to fulfill the requirements of 61-7-105 (driver information.)) The accident occurred today. It was a very minor accident.

The tickets are written into justice court. Acting Chief Hagen delivered them this afternoon.

If there is press, Acting Chief Hagen, (447-8747) is handling it and you can refer questions to him.

The County is handling the case because the city has a conflict.