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Ex-Restaurant Owner To Be Charged In Teen's Death

Kayla Peter, 15, Struck By White Lexus June 19

POSTED: 3:20 pm EST November 2, 2005
 UPDATED: 11:18 pm EST November 2, 2005

Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham said former South Street restaurant owner Susanna Gohman will face two homicide charges in the hit-and-run death of teenager Kayla Peter.

Video: [Gohman Charges Announced](#) | [D.A. Lynne Abraham Press Conference](#)
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"She is facing a lot of time (in jail)," Abraham told reporters Wednesday.

Abraham said Gohman's current whereabouts are unknown but she believed Gohman (pictured left) was still in the Philadelphia area and her office was in contact with Gohman's attorney to pin down her location.

One charge will be homicide by vehicle, while the other will be homicide by vehicle under the influence. Gohman also faces several other charges.

Gohman said a grand jury hearing the case believed Gohman called friends soon after Peter's death and told them she may have hit someone with her car.

Gohman owned a white Lexus that police said hit 15-year-old Peter (pictured, below) just outside of the girl's East Falls home in Philadelphia.

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Court documents revealed Gohman was drinking in Manayunk on June 19, the night of the fatal accident. At the time, Gohman was on probation for driving under the influence from a previous incident.

Abraham said the evidence indicate Gohman had "at least five to seven drinks," including vodka martinis and wine, at two establishments.

Then, Abraham said Gohman went to a third restaurant, Il Tartufo, which is owned by Alberto Delbello, also known as Illyas Shah.

Gohman joined Delbello, his wife and his in-laws at dinner, Abraham said, and Gohman had two more glasses of wine.

After Delbello's family left the restaurant, Delbello and Gohman left Tartufo, with Delbello driving Gohman's car back to her house.

The pair then had sex at Gohman's home, Abraham said, and Delbello had Gohman drive him back to his restaurant.

"Gohman left at high rate of speed down Ridge Avenue and within a very short distance of time and place struck and killed Kayla Peter," Abraham said.

According to a court document, the witness told detectives that Gohman called her two days later crying hysterically.

Gohman told her that she saw news accounts of the fatal hit-and-run and told her that was when Gohman realized she had struck the girl.

Two months after the accident, Gohman turned herself into police and was charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident. She was released when her mother posted 10 percent of her \$250,000 bail.

Gohman's lawyer, Brian McMonagle, talked Wednesday to NBC 10 about his client's current state of mind.

"She's had to endure the constant vandalism of her house and now she's got to endure the prospect of possibly losing her liberty. And yet, despite it all, she realizes that the people who are suffering most are this victim's family and her closest friends, and that's where her thoughts and prayers are," McMonagle said.

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