



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update: SUV Driver Arrested in Wrong-Way Crash as Farmington Hills Police Department Continues Investigation

The 26-year-old man was arrested and arraigned on charges of Reckless Driving Causing Death

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (March 20, 2026) – Following the initial investigation of the March 13 fatal wrong-way crash on I-696, the Farmington Hills Police Department has now determined that the driver of the Chevrolet Blazer SUV was in fact responsible for the head-on collision with the white van. While the preliminary investigation suggested that the deceased driver of the van was at fault, digital forensic evidence was identified during the course of the investigation that proved otherwise.

The Farmington Hills Police Department took the driver of the SUV, 26-year-old Richard Leon-Zghen, into custody on March 17. The Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office authorized a one-count warrant for Mr. Leon-Zghen, charging him with Reckless Driving Causing Death, 15-year felony. He was arraigned at the 47th District Court before Magistrate Hart. Mr. Leon-Zghen remains in police custody where he is being held on a \$250,000 cash or surety bond. He is currently awaiting his next court date at the Oakland County Jail. The next court appearance is a pre-exam conference on April 3 at 9 a.m. in front of Judge Parker.

The investigation remains active, as the Farmington Hills Police Department’s Traffic Safety Section continues scene analysis, witness interviews, vehicle examinations and review of available evidence.

The Farmington Hills Police Department extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased driver.

Anyone with additional information related to this crash is still encouraged to contact the Farmington Hills Police Command Desk at (248) 871-2610.

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Original Press Release

Farmington Hills Police Investigating Fatal 696 Crash

A man was discovered unresponsive on the scene and later pronounced dead

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (March 13, 2026) – On Friday, March 13, 2026, at approximately 4:34 a.m., the Farmington Hills Police Department received a 911 call reporting a head-on crash involving two vehicles on westbound I-696 near Halsted Road. Officers arrived at the scene at 4:37 a.m. and immediately rendered medical aid to the involved drivers. One driver was found to be unresponsive. Farmington Hills firefighters and paramedics arrived on the scene and transported the unresponsive driver to Corewell Hospital Farmington Hills.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a white van was traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of I-696, when it crashed into a black SUV. The unresponsive driver of the van, an 81-year-old male resident of Detroit, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. The driver of the SUV sustained minor injuries and was also transported to Corewell Hospital Farmington Hills and is expected to make a full recovery.

The Farmington Hills Police Department's Traffic Safety Section is actively investigating the incident.

Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to contact the Farmington Hills Police Command Desk at **(248) 871-2610**.

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