



CITY OF RICHLAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT
871 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7340



March 3, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25-008641 - Fatal Motorcycle Collision Leads to Arrest of Off-Duty WSP Trooper

Richland, Wash. — On Saturday, March 1, 2025, at approximately 7:39 p.m., Richland Police Department (RPD) patrol officers responded to a vehicle-versus-motorcycle collision at the intersection of SR 240 and Village Parkway in Richland.

Upon arrival, officers observed life-saving measures being administered to the motorcycle rider, identified as Jhoser Sanchez, 20, of Richland. Sanchez was transported to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) initially assumed investigative responsibility for the incident. However, upon discovering that the involved driver was an off-duty WSP trooper—now identified as Sarah L. Clasen, 35, of Richland—jurisdiction was transferred to RPD to ensure transparency and impartiality.

Clasen made her initial court appearance today, during which details from the probable cause statement were disclosed. The statement revealed that Clasen was traveling west on SR 240, returning home, when she attempted to make a left turn onto Village Parkway. Sanchez was traveling east on SR 240, approaching the intersection, when Clasen turned left in front of his motorcycle, resulting in a collision with the front right corner of her vehicle.

During the investigation, RPD officers identified several inconsistencies in Clasen's account of the incident. Additionally, she declined to complete Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT). Based on officers' observations—including slurred speech, disorganized statements, and glassy eyes—Clasen was determined to be impaired at the time of the crash. Probable cause was established for her arrest, and she was subsequently booked into the Benton County Jail on a 72-hour hold for Vehicular Homicide. Investigators obtained a court-authorized search warrant for a blood sample, which was collected and is pending analysis.

Clasen was released from the Benton County Jail this afternoon on her own recognizance. Additionally, the Benton County Prosecutor's Office has announced its intention to request a special prosecutor to oversee the case, ensuring it is handled with complete impartiality. The Benton County Coroner's Office has scheduled an autopsy for Sanchez tomorrow.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Damon Jansen, Commander of Investigations

Richland Police Department

(509) 942-7340

RPDPPIO@ci.richland.wa.us

About Richland Police Department:

www.ci.richland.wa.us/departments/police-services

The Richland Police Department is committed to creating a safe environment and cultivating meaningful community relationships through dedicated, professional law enforcement services. Established with a dedication to teamwork, integrity, and excellence, the department strives to maintain public safety and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

###