

**EXCLUSIVE: Driver Who Caused Fatal Crash While Fleeing Milwaukee Deputy Allegedly Committed Armed Robbery In La Crosse One Day Earlier**  
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

I have learned that the 18-year old Franksville man accused of causing a fatal crash April 11 on Milwaukee's south side while fleeing a sheriff's deputy allegedly committed an armed robbery in La Crosse one day earlier and was being sought by La Crosse Police at the time he was fleeing in Milwaukee. This information explains why Robert Matagi fled from authorities rather than simply pull over.

Matagi told local authorities he was afraid to go to jail but that original story did not add up because he only had a small amount of marijuana and a gun in his car. The La Crosse connection, reported exclusively here, provides the explanation.

Matagi was charged yesterday (April 15) in La Crosse, along with two other men, for allegedly breaking into a woman's apartment while carrying a gun and stealing items from her home. He is accused of pistol-whipping the woman's roommate. That incident occurred last Wednesday April 10. Matagi was also charged yesterday in Milwaukee in connection with the fatal crash. That crash occurred Thursday April 11, one day after the La Crosse robbery.

A Milwaukee County deputy attempted to pull Matagi over after observing driving recklessly and speeding on I-43 near Lapham. Matagi got off the freeway and crashed into a car at 13<sup>th</sup> and Morgan. The driver of the second car, Pedro Colon-Ortiz, was killed. Matagi's lone adult criminal and court record lists a handful of minor cases from western Wisconsin. However, juvenile court records are not public so it is not known if he committed any crimes prior to last year. Matagi is 18 years old.

Mark Belling  
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