



On October 24, 2017, at about 1930 hours, Bernardina Leon was walking her 6-year-old daughter across North Main Street at Lamar Street. Before crossing the street, Bernardina activated the flashing beacons to caution traffic that they were in the crosswalk. As they were crossing the street, Bernardina barely had time to push her daughter out of the way before the suspect vehicle struck her at about 35 mph. The impact threw her over the hood of the car and she landed about 80' away from the point of impact. The suspect fled, leaving her to fight for her life in the middle of North Main Street. On November 9th she died from her injuries.

Officer Tommy Kor responded to the scene along with his FTO Robert Miller. They assisted paramedics with the injured, processed the crime scene, and talked to witnesses. The investigation revealed only that the suspect vehicle was probably a blue Nissan sedan and no witnesses had seen the suspect. Prospects for an arrest in the case were dim.

The following day a citizen called to report a blue Nissan Sentra with damage parked across from 255 East Bolivar Street. Again, Officers Kor and Miller responded. They examined the vehicle and determined that the description and damage was consistent with the collision from the day before. The registered owner no longer lived at the address on the registration, but the officers were able to track down friends and family. These people provided further evidence that this was the correct car and that the registered owner had been the driver.

The suspect was Spanish speaking, so Officer Daniel Garcia translated during the interrogation. The officers were able to get a full confession from the suspect. The officers found the suspect had three prior DUI arrests and was driving on a suspended license for one of those convictions. The suspect was booked for Manslaughter, Hit and Run Causing Death, and Driving on a Suspended License.

Officers Danny Garcia, Robert Miller and Tommy Kor's efforts brought this dangerous suspect to justice before he could hurt someone else. They eased the pain of the victim's family who felt great relief that we were able to catch the man who did this to their wife and mother, and they showed the entire City of Salinas the professionalism of their police department. I commend them for their skill and effort.