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Wednesday, March 27, 2013

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Florida Highway Patrol: Driver cited in crash that killed four in Deerfield Beach



By [Erika Pesantes](#), Sun Sentinel
10:08 p.m. EDT, March 26, 2013

The [Florida Highway Patrol](#) has cited a driver with careless driving in a [Deerfield Beach](#) crash that caused an SUV to lose control and veer into a lake, killing its four occupants.

According to court records, Romial Romeus, 37, of [Lauderdale Lakes](#), was cited on March 19 in the crash that caused the deaths of Nadege Theodore, 37, her daughter, Lyne Theodore, 15, her nephew, Guivens Daverman, 16, and another relative, Standalie Jean-Baptiste, 20.

The family was returning home from a trip to the [Town Center at Boca Raton](#) mall when the accident occurred.

Romeus is scheduled for a hearing April 9. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

"It appears to be an accident," said Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. Mark Wysocky. "There were no drugs, no alcohol, nothing to substantiate a criminal charge."

The nighttime, three-car crash occurred on Jan. 2 in the southbound lanes of Interstate 95, south of Hillsboro Boulevard.

Romeus' 2003 Nissan Altima sideswiped a Hyundai Sonata which then struck the Lexus SUV the family of four traveled in, the FHP said.

The impact caused Nadege Theodore to lose control of the SUV, which swerved off the roadway through a chain-link fence and into a lake about 10:10 that night.

Nadege Theodore, Daverman and Jean-Baptiste were plucked from the lake and transported to [Broward Health](#) North, where Theodore and Daverman were pronounced

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- Interstate 95 and Hillsboro Boulevard, Deerfield Beach, Fl.

dead.

Rescuers resuscitated Jean-Baptiste at the scene, but she died four days later.

Authorities did not learn that Lyne Theodore also traveled in the SUV until after they began notifying relatives of the dead and injured. Divers returned to the scene at daybreak following the crash and found her body in the lake.

Romeus was not injured in the fatal crash. On Jan. 15, about two weeks after the accident, he was stopped by the [Broward Sheriff's Office](#) and cited for operating a vehicle without lights at night, records show. That case also is still pending.

On Jan. 12, hundreds of mourners attended an English and Creole service at the First Baptist Church of [Fort Lauderdale](#) for the four relatives. Photo slide shows during the service documented young lives that were snuffed out too soon.

Daverman aspired to be a dentist and Lyne Theodore, like her mother, wanted to be a nurse. The two teens were students at Blanche Ely High School.

Nadege Theodore worked as a home health aide for Matrix Home Care in [Boca Raton](#) and attended ITT Tech for [nursing](#). Jean-Baptiste attended [Broward College](#) and wanted to become an anesthesiologist.

All the victims, except for Daverman, had left their native Haiti for better lives in the United States.

Staff researcher [Barbara Hijek](#) contributed to this report.

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