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## Driver charged in June death

Joshua Paniccia, 18, faces felony counts related to crash that killed cyclist David Ryan

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**BALLSTON SPA** -- A Saratoga County grand jury indicted an 18-year-old Niskayuna man on Thursday for his part in the June 29 death of a cyclist.

The grand jury charged Joshua Paniccia of 2201 Lynwood Drive, Niskayuna, with two felony counts, second-degree manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide, Saratoga County District Attorney James A. Murphy III said.

Paniccia faces up to 15 years in state prison for his part in the death of David Ryan, 32, of Niskayuna, a General Electric Co. physicist and avid bicyclist. Paniccia was speeding along Riverview Road in Clifton Park when he struck Ryan on his bike, State Police have said.

Paniccia will be arraigned this week or next week, Murphy said.

"David Ryan was acting appropriately and riding in the correct place. He was on the shoulder and in no way contributed to the crash," Murphy said.

A lengthy police investigation slowed legal action on the case.

"I'm pleased with the investigation," State Police Senior Investigator Patricia Donovan said. "It took a considerable period of time, but it was done correctly and cautiously."

The speed limit on Riverview Road is 45 mph. Neither Murphy nor Donovan would say how fast Paniccia was traveling.

But the grand jury provided two different theories for prosecution. The manslaughter charge, a class C felony, implies Paniccia recklessly disregarded risk; the negligent homicide count, a class E felony, states the driver failed to perceive a substantial risk, Murphy said.

Police say Paniccia lost control of his car, crossed Riverview Road and hit Ryan at around 7:30 p.m. Ryan, a graduate of Oxford University in England, made magnets used in medical MRIs at G.E.

Paniccia will be ordered to surrender at the State Police barracks in Clifton Park for processing, mug shots and prints upon his arraignment, Murphy said.

The teen had racked up a series of traffic infractions in Niskayuna prior to the fatal collision, according to a Niskayuna court clerk.

A memorial bike ride for Ryan will be held on Oct. 9. For information, go to <http://www.davidtryan.com>.

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