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Ex-cop: Tricked to confess

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Disgraced ex-cop Joseph Gray says an NYPD captain who was a high school pal tricked him into confessing he was drinking before he mowed down a Brooklyn family — promising their conversation was "just between you and me."

Gray, 41, faces manslaughter charges for striking and killing Maria Herrera, 24, who was pregnant, her 4-year-old son, Andy, and her sister, Dilcia Peña, 14, with his minivan Aug. 4 after allegedly being on a 12-hour drinking binge at a topless bar in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

In motions filed in Brooklyn Supreme Court, Gray asked Justice Anne Feldman to suppress his statements to Capt. Bryan White on the grounds that his friend abused their personal relationship to get a statement to use against him.

Gray also asked the judge to reduce charges against him to vehicular manslaughter, which carries a top prison term of seven years.

White spoke with Gray a half-hour after the accident. Gray's blood-alcohol level tested 1.6 times the legal limit after the accident, police said. Gray's statement to White was the only one in which he admitted to drinking heavily before driving.

"I'm glad it is someone like you, Bryan. I know I will get a fair shake. I have got to admit I was drinking, but it was earlier," White, during grand jury testimony, quoted Gray as saying.

In a sworn affidavit, Gray said White "told me that the conversation we were about to have was 'just between you and me, Joe,' and he said he had to know how to deal 'with the situation,'" Gray wrote. "Had I known Capt. White's questions constituted an interrogation, I would not have responded to any questions about drinking that day."

Gray's lawyer, Harold Levy, asked for a hearing to determine whether the statement should be suppressed. Prosecutors contend the statement was legitimate but had no objection to the proceeding.

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