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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore released the following statement today:

On November, 1, 2018, a Travis County Grand Jury indicted Justin Dakota Ayers for the events leading up to the death of Brianna Polzine in August of this year.

According to an affidavit filed by the Austin Police Department (APD), witnesses described seeing Ayers assaulting Polzine while their vehicle was stopped at a red light. After the light turned green, the vehicle proceeded through the intersection with part of Polzine's body hanging out of the passenger side of the vehicle. Minutes later, Ayers runs the red light at the next intersection causing a collision with an oncoming vehicle. The force of the collision causes Ayers' vehicle to collide with a third vehicle before coming to a stop. Witnesses say they saw Ayers then flee the scene on foot without attempting to render assistance to Polzine or the other drivers. Ayers was later located and determined by APD to be intoxicated.

Ayers faces multiple charges including Felony Murder, a first degree felony punishable up to life in prison, for causing the death of Brianna Polzine while in the course of committing the felony offense of Violation of a Protective Order (a protective order had been in place against Ayers at the time of this incident). The Grand Jury also charged Ayers with Intoxication Manslaughter for Polzine's death, in addition to Intoxication Assault and three counts of Failure to Stop and Render Aid for the injuries sustained by the other drivers.

This case represents part of the ongoing efforts of the Travis County District Attorney's Office to seek tougher penalties in vehicular crime cases. This case will be prosecuted by Allison Tisdale and Matthew Foye of the newly formed Vehicular Crimes Special Prosecutions Unit.