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# UPDATE: Girl killed in DUI crash was artistic, good student, friends say

## After going to party, 16-year-old Mackenzie Frazee reportedly had second thoughts, asked for ride home.

By **SALVADOR HERNANDEZ** and **ELYSSE JAMES**

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

TUSTIN – She loved sunflowers. She would hold them, look at them and draw them when she had a free moment; so it was only fitting that friends lined the street where she was killed Thursday morning with wide yellow sunflowers.

The day after 16-year-old Mackenzie Frazee was killed in a violent crash on Newport Avenue, friends and family continued to gather near La Colina Drive, leaving notes, flowers and candles for the teenager they described as an artistic and good student.

"God really took an angel," said Tricia Fallo, who said her son Chad had been dating Frazee for about a year. "It's a big loss to us."

Frazee was pulled by paramedics from the wreckage of a 1998 Mercedes-Benz, but she died from her injuries at Western Medical Center-Santa Ana.

Authorities said the car was sheared into pieces after crashing into a light pole early Thursday morning. The 17-year-old driver of the car has been taken into custody on suspicion of driving under the influence.

"In the middle of the intersection, we saw a big hunk of metal and sparks started coming out of it and it started to catch on fire," said Scott Walker, a 46-year-old resident from Irvine and one of the first people to see the crash. "All of a sudden, a boy stands up and walks out of the car, and we kind of look at each other in shock, like, 'Oh my God, how can somebody be walking away from this thing?'"

California Highway Patrol investigators believe the car was traveling at a high rate of speed, said CHP officer Jennifer Hink.

"The kid was like, 'What's going on?'" Walker said. "We ran close to him and said, 'Are you OK?' He's like, 'I'm all right, I got lucky, and I'm OK.'"

When more people gathered around the crash, someone noticed Frazee inside the car and that she wasn't moving.

"It's a tragic loss," Fallo said. "She's such an awesome girl."

Her aunt, Nicolle Frazee, described her as unique.

"That's what she was," Frazee said. "Unique. There was nobody like her. She would make you crack up with just the silliest things. Just crazy, funny,

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individual, no one like her."

Her aunt said she was against drinking alcohol.

"She was a clean-living girl," Frazee said. "She prided herself on that."

CHP investigators are looking into where the driver obtained alcohol, Hink said. He has not been identified because he is a minor.

Fallo said friends had gathered at the driver's home that night, where he had been drinking. Frazee was having second thoughts about being there, and she asked for a ride home.

"It's not her character, it's just not. She doesn't do that," Fallo said. "She wanted to get home."

Frazee was about to begin her junior year at Foothill High School, where officials described her as a student who took art classes and received good grades.

She loved to paint pictures of Chad and her, Fallo said. One of her latest drawings was of Mother Theresa.

"She was a beautiful artist," Nicolle Frazee said.

She was into fashion had aspirations of attending the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and of studying art in France.

Last year, she visited France as a student ambassador. A few weeks ago, Frazee and her father had returned from a two-week visit to Spain.

"She was very enthusiastic about life and the future," said Valerie Lopez, Frazee's aunt.

School officials said that although school is not yet in session, grief counselors will be available at Foothill and Tustin High schools. Those interested can call 714-730-7464.

Frazee's parents also had attended Foothill High School and both grew up in Tustin. Friends are also planning a carwash to help pay for funeral costs, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Foothill High School, Fallo said.

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