

# Boca Raton motorist charged in crash with a train

## Girl, 9, was killed by 'reckless' act, police report

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A Boca Raton man who police said acted "with reckless disregard for human life" when he drove into the path of a train was charged with the death of his stepdaughter, 9.

Scott Wynkoop, 40, will appear before a Palm Beach County judge today to enter a not guilty plea and to have his bond set, said family spokesman **Kenneth Lipman**.

**Lipman**, called Wynkoop's arrest "shocking."

Boca Raton police charged Wyn-

koop with manslaughter by culpable negligence and vehicular homicide on Friday.

He was arrested at his office in the 300 block of Yamato Road and was not given a chance to surrender, **Lipman said**.

Wynkoop drove around a lowered railroad-crossing gate near the intersection of North Dixie Highway and Hidden Valley Boulevard on May 17 when a freight train slammed into the left rear corner of his Mazda RX-8. The car hit a railroad crossing box and concrete battery box, police said.

"There was no way the Mazda was going to make it across," James Scala, who was waiting on the other side of the track, told police.

Scala held Wynkoop's stepdaughter, Samantha Rosales, until Boca Raton Fire-Rescue arrived and took the

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JAMES SCALA  
WITNESS

girl to Delray Medical Center where she was pronounced dead the next day.

The Palm Beach County medical examiner determined that Rosales died from blunt traumatic injuries she suffered during the crash.

Florida East Coast Railway officials determined that the crossing gates and lights worked, and police said the train entered the intersection with its whistle blowing.

**Lipman** said the intersection was poorly designed.

"It was a tragedy waiting to hap-

pen," **Lipman said**.

Maria Wynkoop told police that her husband was picking up their daughter from a day-care center at the Advent Lutheran Church, 5001 NE Fourth Ave., in Boca Raton, and that he had no reason to hurry.

**Lipman** said Friday that Maria Wynkoop completely supports her husband.

"One can only imagine that you lose your daughter and your husband is arrested with no notice . . . you can just imagine the horrors that Mrs. Wynkoop is experiencing," **Lipman said**.

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