

Second driver saved baby in La Grange fatal accident

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A man whose van was sideswiped by the vehicle that struck and killed a young Countryside mother of two in La Grange May 19 rescued the woman's baby from oncoming traffic, his attorney said.

Grant Dixon said his client, Johnny Borizov, 27, jumped out of his van moments after being struck on the passenger's side by a silver SUV on eastbound 47th Street at 8th Avenue.

"The baby was thrown into the westbound lane of traffic, and Johnny scooped the baby up and brought him back to the side of the road within seconds," Dixon said.

Four-month-old Carson Cook suffered a broken leg, police said. He had been thrown from a front baby carrier, strapped to his

mother's chest.

Cari Cook, 30, died from injuries suffered from the SUV's impact as she walked south across 47th Street and attempted to lift the wheels of her daughter's stroller over a curb at 8th Avenue. Cook's daughter, Ellie, 2, and the family dog escaped injury.

Dixon said Borizov recalled seeing a woman with a stroller crossing 47th as he drove east in the center lane on his way to a job as a maintenance worker. The driver of the silver SUV was slightly behind Borizov and in the lane closest to the curb when she struck Cook and then collided with Borizov's van, Dixon said.

"The biggest question is why (the driver) didn't see (Cook). It's hard to explain," Dixon said.

La Grange police have said alcohol, drugs or use of a cell phone are not believed

to be factors contributing to the accident, which remains under investigation.

The Illinois State Police Accident Reconstruction Team and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office are assisting in the investigation. No charges have been filed and no one is in custody.

Police declined to comment further while the investigation is continuing.

Dixon said his client is considering legal action against the SUV driver and is coping with mental and physical difficulties as a result of the crash.

"The difficulty of having to live with the memory of someone killed right before his eyes," Dixon said. "It was a very traumatic, tragic experience."

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CORRECTION

The school at which Cari Cook of Countryside taught was incorrectly identified in the May 28 issue. She taught at Mt. Greenwood and Hale schools in Chicago.