

Supreme Court of the State of New York
Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department

D33464
N/mv

_____AD3d_____

Argued - November 17, 2011

MARK C. DILLON, J.P.
RANDALL T. ENG
PLUMMER E. LOTT
LEONARD B. AUSTIN, JJ.

2010-12147

DECISION & ORDER

Sydney Suvalin, plaintiff-respondent, v Isaac Batista, et al.,
defendants, Sun Yun Na, appellant, City of New York,
defendant-respondent.

(Index No. 9587/09)

Kaplan, Hanson, McCarthy, Adams, Finder & Fishbein, Yonkers, N.Y. (E. Richard Vieira of counsel), for appellant.

Treuhaft & Zakarin, LLP, New York, N.Y. (Miriam Zakarin of counsel), for plaintiff-respondent.

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel, New York, N.Y. (Stephen J. McGrath, Tzipora Teichman, and Victoria Scalzo of counsel), for defendant-respondent.

In an action to recover damages for personal injuries, the defendant Sun Yun Na appeals from an order of the Supreme Court, Kings County (Velasquez, J.), dated November 4, 2010, which denied his motion for summary judgment dismissing the complaint and all cross claims insofar as asserted against him.

ORDERED that the order is reversed, on the law, with one bill of costs, and the motion of the defendant Sun Yun Na for summary judgment dismissing the complaint and all cross claims insofar as asserted against him is granted.

On February 28, 2008, at approximately 1:00 A.M., the plaintiff, Sydney Suvalin, was operating a vehicle owned by Desmond Hunte, a nonparty in this action, when it was struck from

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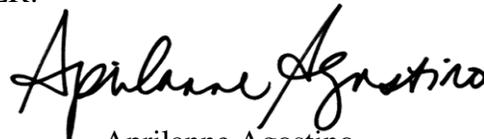
the rear by a vehicle owned by the defendant Sun Yun Na (hereinafter the appellant) and operated by the defendant Isaac Batista. On February 25, 2008, the appellant had reported his vehicle stolen. The plaintiff commenced this action against, among others, the appellant. The appellant moved for summary judgment dismissing the complaint and all cross claims insofar as asserted against him, and the Supreme Court denied the motion.

The appellant established, prima facie, his entitlement to judgment as a matter of law by presenting evidence that his vehicle had been stolen about three days prior to the subject accident and was being operated without his permission or consent at the time of the accident (*see Devellis v Lucci*, 266 AD2d 180; *Delfino v Ranieri*, 131 Misc 2d 600). In opposition, the respondents failed to raise a triable issue of fact. Even if the appellant violated Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1210(a) on the day of the theft by leaving the key to the vehicle in its ignition, the lapse of three days between the theft of the vehicle and the injury-producing event vitiated any proximate cause between the appellant's purported negligence and the accident as a matter of law (*see Devellis v Lucci*, 266 AD2d 180; *Delfino v Ranieri*, 131 Misc 2d 600; *cf. Johnson v Manhattan & Bronx Surface Transit Operating Auth.*, 71 NY2d 198, 206-207).

Accordingly, the Supreme Court should have granted the appellant's motion for summary judgment dismissing the complaint and all cross claims insofar as asserted against him.

DILLON, J.P., ENG, LOTT and AUSTIN, JJ., concur.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aprilanne Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aprilanne Agostino
Clerk of the Court