

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2023

SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FELONY DUI

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to twenty-five (25) years suspended to a sixteen (16) year sentence in prison followed by five (5) years of home detention on probation and a ten thousand and one hundred dollar (\$10,100) fine for Felony DUI (Death) as well as a fifteen (15) year prison sentence with a five thousand and one hundred dollar (\$5,100) fine for Felony DUI (Great Bodily Injury).

Jamells Floyd, 45, pleaded guilty on Friday in Spartanburg to Felony DUI with Death and another charge of Felony DUI with Great Bodily Injury. Circuit Court Judge J. Derham Cole issued the sentence.

The crimes occurred on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020, around 9:20 p.m. Ericka Solesbee was driving a 2007 Honda sedan along with Alexis Harris as a passenger northbound on Parris Bridge Road. A sedan driven by William Watson was traveling south on Parris Bridge Road. A third vehicle, a 2004 GMC pickup truck, driven by Jamells Floyd was also traveling south on Parris Bridge Road. Mr. Floyd in his truck passed Mr. Watson's sedan and was traveling left of center. Mr. Floyd's truck struck Ms. Solesbee's Honda sedan head on. Mr. Floyd's truck then traveled right of center and struck the left of Mr. Watson's sedan. Ms. Solesbee was pronounced deceased at the scene. Ms. Harris was transported to SRMC for injuries. Mr. Floyd was also transported to SRMC and was determined to be under the influence. A hospital blood test showed Mr. Floyd's blood alcohol was .162 and a legal blood test drawn later and tested by SLED showed a blood alcohol of .114 with 7.7 ng/ml of THC in his system.

Floyd's prior criminal history included convictions for trafficking crack cocaine, other drug offenses, failure to stop for a blue light, driving under suspension, and other driving offenses.

Solicitor Barry Barnette commented that Floyd's actions under the influence have affected the Solesbee and Harris families every day and will continue to do so every day, especially each Thanksgiving. Felony DUI is a completely preventable crime if people will not get behind the wheel of a vehicle under the influence. Please call an Uber, a Lyft, a cab, a friend, or a relative so another family does not have to face this tragic situation.

For more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-2575 or agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org.

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