

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

HIGHLANDS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

On May 24, 2010, Drew See, 51, of Highlands, N.J., appeared in Monmouth County Superior Court and pled guilty to Vehicular Homicide, Violating a Special Sentence of Community Supervision For Life, and the motor vehicle offense of Driving While Intoxicated ("D.W.I."). The charges stem from a fatal motor vehicle accident which resulted in the death of Patti Gardner, 45, also of Highlands, N.J., on February 8, 2009.

During his court appearance, See admitted that Ms. Gardner died as a result of his reckless operation of a motorcycle on which Ms. Gardner was the passenger. The guilty plea was entered before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard W. English.

See is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge English on July 30, 2010. At sentencing, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will recommend that See receive a six year State Prison term for Vehicular Homicide. The crime of Vehicular Homicide is subject to the "No Early Release Act" (N.E.R.A), which means that See must serve 85% of the sentence imposed for that crime before he will become eligible for release on parole. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will recommend a concurrent 9 month custodial term for Violation of Community Supervision For Life charge, which is not subject to the provisions of N.E.R.A. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:11-5, at sentencing Judge English will be required to suspend See's driver's license for a period of at least 5 years and potentially for the remainder of See's life.

The fatal accident was investigated by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with the Middletown Township Police Department. The investigation revealed that during the early evening hours of February 8, 2009, See was intoxicated while driving a Yamaha motorcycle east on Port Monmouth Road in Middletown Township, N.J. The victim, Ms. Gardner, was a passenger seated on the rear of See's motorcycle. After passing a motor vehicle in a "no passing" zone, See's motorcycle struck the roadway curb after re-entering the proper lane of travel, which caused the motorcycle to leave the roadway. Ms. Gardner was ejected from the motorcycle and, after traveling some distance in the air, she landed on the pavement. Ms. Gardner was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision. Her cause of death was determined to be from craniocerebral injuries due to the force of her impact with the pavement.

See was located at the scene, and refused medical treatment. See was transported to Riverview Medical Center where blood was drawn from his person. Laboratory testing of this blood has revealed that See's blood alcohol concentration was substantially in excess of the legal limit of .08%. Pending the completion of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Ms. Gardner, See was initially charged with Violation of Community Supervision For Life on February 9, 2009 and lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of \$25,000 bail. The violation of his supervision was based upon the prohibited act of ingestion of alcohol. See was subsequently charged with Vehicular Homicide, "D.W.I." and other motor vehicle offenses on February 18, 2009. Bail was set at an additional \$120,000 on the Vehicular Homicide charge. A Monmouth County Grand Jury returned an indictment against See on August 7, 2009. See has not yet posted bail and he remains at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "The death of Ms. Gardner is a reminder of the tragic consequences of drinking and driving. It is imperative that people contemplate the potential ramifications of driving while intoxicated and make intelligent and responsible choices. With this plea, See will now be held accountable for his conduct."

The case is assigned to Assistant Prosecutor Laurie B. Gerhardt. See is represented by Jeffrey Coghlan, Esquire, of Freehold, N.J.

Released: May 24, 2010