

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
71 Monument Park
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
732/ 431-7160
Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

HIGHLANDS MAN RECEIVES STATE PRISON TERM FOR MIDDLETOWN VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

On July 30, 2010, Drew See, 51, of Highlands, N.J., was sentenced to a 6 year New Jersey State Prison term for second degree Vehicular Homicide, fourth degree Violating a Special Sentence of Community Supervision For Life and the motor vehicle offense of Driving While Intoxicated ("D.W.I."). See had pled guilty to the charges on May 24, 2010, before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard W. English, who also sentenced See.

Pursuant to the "No Early Release Act" (N.E.R.A), Judge English ordered that See must serve 85% of the 6 year term before he becomes eligible for release on parole. Judge English also ordered that See's driver's license be suspended for life. This was the defendant's second conviction for driving while intoxicated, having previously been convicted in 1988.

The charges stem from the February 8, 2009, death of Patti Gardner, 45, of Highlands, N.J. The investigation into the collision which caused Ms. Gardner's death was conducted 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 and driving a Yamaha motorcycle east on Port Monmouth Road in Middletown Township, N.J. Ms. Gardner was a passenger on the rear seat of See's motorcycle. After passing another motor vehicle in a "no passing" zone, See's motorcycle struck the roadway curb upon re-entering its proper lane of travel. The impact with the curb caused the motorcycle to leave the roadway. Ms. Gardner was ejected from the motorcycle and traveled some distance before landing 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 he refused medical treatment. See was transported to Riverview Medical Center where blood was drawn from his person. Laboratory testing of the blood drawn from See revealed that See's blood alcohol concentration ("B.A.C.") 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 on February 9, 2009 with Violation of Community Supervision For Life and he was lodged at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail in the amount of \$25,000 which was set by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Mellaci, Jr. The violation of his supervision was based upon See's consumption of alcohol. See was subsequently charged on February 18, 2009, with Vehicular Homicide, D.W.I. and other motor vehicle offenses. An additional bail in the amount of \$120,000 was set by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Ira E. Kreizman on the Vehicular Homicide charge. See remained lodged at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution from the date of his initial arrest until he was sentenced.

See is subject to Community Supervision for Life as a result of a sentence which was imposed by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Patricia Del Bueno Cleary on April 28, 2000, for second degree Sexual Assault. Judge Cleary also sentenced See to serve a 5 year State Prison term and ordered him to comply with the community registration requirements of Megan's Law. A specific condition of See's Community Supervision for Life is that See refrain from the consumption of alcohol.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "Ms. Gardner's death is a tragic reminder of the potential 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 sentence See will now be held accountable for his conduct."

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

Dated: July 30, 2010