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Akron Man Sentenced to Mandatory 8 Years in Prison for Deadly Drunk Driving Crash

AKRON, Ohio (Monday, February 26, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that John Bird, 51, of Karan Drive in Akron, was sentenced to eight years in prison in connection with a December 2016 drunk driving crash which killed a 17-year-old and injured two others. Mr. Bird is not eligible for early release and must serve the entire prison sentence.

Mr. Bird also had his driver's license suspended for life.

On January 2, 2018, Mr. Bird pled guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault – felonies of the 3rd degree
- Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

On the evening of December 23, 2016, Bird was travelling at over 90 miles per hour on North Portage Path when he struck a vehicle which was travelling in the opposite direction and attempting to turn onto Sunnyside Avenue. At the time, Bird's blood alcohol level was .292, over three times the legal limit. 17-year-old Grant Wilson, a passenger in the other vehicle, died in the crash. The driver of the other vehicle and his 15-year-old daughter suffered significant injuries.

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“If there was ever a case that shows the devastating results of driving drunk, this is it. Mr. Bird was obscenely drunk and decided to get behind the wheel of a car. By driving nearly 60 miles over the speed limit on a crowded, residential street, Mr. Bird turned his car into a deadly missile,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “He killed 17-year-old Grant Wilson and seriously injured Grant’s girlfriend and her father. Mr. Bird’s reckless and selfish actions have left behind a trail of excruciating pain for the victims and their families.”