

News Release

For Immediate Release
January 14, 2014

Charges Dismissed in Traffic Accident at Northwoods Mall Charleston, S.C. – January 14, 2014

Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced that the reckless homicide charge against Raymond Clement has been dismissed. Clement was charged in the fatal auto versus pedestrian collision that occurred on September 3, 2013, at 2150 Northwoods Blvd. The victim Margarete Althausen was crossing the road on foot when she was struck by Mr. Clement's vehicle which was travelling 24 mph in a 20 mph zone.

According to Assistant Solicitor Culver Kidd who is the prosecutor on the case, "Our hearts go out to the victim's family in this matter. It is a true tragedy and the wounds the family feels right now will likely take many years to heal. However, the pain for their loss does not turn a tragic traffic accident into a criminal offense." Mr. Clement failed to see the victim crossing the street. It was an accident and our laws do not send people to prison for accidents and unintentional conduct, unless it shows an extreme indifference to human life. After the accident Mr. Clement stopped, called 911, and waited with the victim until help arrived. There was no evidence of any other misconduct by Mr. Clement other than his driving 24 miles per hour in a 20 mph zone. He was not on the phone, texting or otherwise, he was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he was not behaving in any way which could be categorized as willful or wanton disregard for the safety of others."

Solicitor Wilson stated, "Civil liability and criminal responsibility are very different concepts. Civil negligence and recklessness are not synonymous with recklessness as defined in the criminal context. The negligent act surrounding this horrible accident does not give rise to a prosecution for reckless homicide."

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