

News Release

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2022

Drunk Driver Sentenced to 4 years Active Prison Sentence for Felony DUI Resulting in Great Bodily Injury.

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on June 6, 2022, Richard Shore, Jr. pled guilty to Felony DUI resulting in Great Bodily Injury. The charge carries a minimum 30 day to maximum 15 year sentencing range. Judge Bentley Price sentenced Shore to 12 years but suspended the sentence to 4 years of active prison time with 4 years of probation to follow.

The guilty plea arose shortly after a trial jury was selected jury. During the guilty plea, Assistant Solicitor Lemuel Zeigler explained that on the night of February 15, 2018, Officer Brandon Van Ausdal of the North Charleston Police Department and his K-9 partner MOJO were responding with lights and sirens activated to a residential burglary in progress. While driving on Rivers Avenue, the Defendant, failed to yield to the blue lights and tried to cross the four lanes of Rivers ahead of Officer Van Ausdal, causing the crash. The collision knocked unconscious Officer Van Ausdal. After bystanders were able to awaken him, Van Ausdal stumbled to the passenger side door to check on his partner, MOJO, but was unable to get into the vehicle.

EMS transported Officer Van Ausdal was taken to the Medical University. He stayed in the intensive care unit for over three nights. Van Ausdal suffered severe head injuries and multiple other injuries. K-9 MOJO was taken to the emergency veterinarian and had to be euthanized. Officer Van Ausdal did not get to see Mojo again after the accident, which compounded his anguish.

The Defendant was also taken to the emergency room where he was later released. Upon arrest, he refused to provide a blood or urine sample for testing. Troopers with the Highway Patrol were able to secure a blood draw by search warrant and the Defendant's blood alcohol content came back as a .157, nearly twice the legal limit.



Officer Van Ausdal still suffers from injuries, including migraines, as a result of this car wreck. He has worked hard to resume working full time as a police detective in another state. He does not remember anything from that night or the subsequent three months. He also had shoulder surgery to repair a torn left labrum. Officer Van Ausdal explained during sentencing that the hardest part of this is the thought that he was not able to protect his partner MOJO that night. He also told Judge Price that he suffers from retrograde amnesia and cannot remember his own wedding.

The State opined that an appropriate active prison sentence was between 8 and 12 years, noting that the Victim requested the maximum 15-year sentence. The Defendant offered an apology to Officer Van Ausdal and MOJO during his guilty plea and his attorney, Beau Seaton, ultimately asked for a 3-year sentence. Judge Bentley Price acknowledged the gravity of the reckless decision by the Defendant to drive drunk that evening and sentenced him to 12 years, suspending the sentence to 4 years active time followed by 4 years of probation.