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Ian Eckardt-Rigberg Sentenced to 3 1/3 to 10 Years in State Prison



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that IAN ECKARDT-RIGBERG, 20, of Delmar, was sentenced before the Honorable Thomas Breslin in Albany County Court this morning to 3 1/3 to 10 years in State Prison for causing the death of Rozell Whitehead after striking him with his vehicle in February 2012 in the City of Albany. ECKHARDT-RIGBERG was also sentenced to a concurrent State Prison term of 2 to 6 years for leaving the scene of the incident and not reporting to the police.

On February 1, 2013, ECKHARDT-RIGBERG pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Manslaughter in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony and (1) Count of Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting, a Class D Felony.

On February 25, 2012, at approximately 7:30pm, ECKARDT-RIGBERG was operating a motor vehicle above the posted speed limit on Interstate 90 in the City of Albany, when he failed to stop after being directed to do so by a marked police car.

ECKARDT-RIGBERG continued traveling at a high rate of speed and ran a red light while getting off of Interstate 90 on Henry Johnson Blvd, striking Rozell Whitehead with his vehicle, causing his death.

The defendant fled the scene and failed to report the incident. ECKHARDT-RIGBERG then drove to the Bethlehem Police Department where he falsely reported being involved in various property damage accidents in the Town of Bethlehem.

ECKARDT-RIGBERG was operating a motor vehicle in violation of restrictions on his license at the time of the incident.

“This tragedy could have easily been prevented and Mr. Whitehead still with us today had this defendant simply made the choice to pull his vehicle over when the police officer directed him to before he even exited Interstate 90. Because of his reckless and careless decision not to heed the officers’ instructions and flee from them, Mr. Eckhardt-Rigberg will now spend the next several years in State Prison,” commented DA Soares.

Vehicular Crimes Unit Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter prosecuted this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue.

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