

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Driver convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Leah Anne Walton, 23, was tried for 1) Involuntary Manslaughter, 2) Reckless Driving, 3) Misdemeanor Possession of Marijuana, 4) Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and 5) No Vehicle Liability Insurance in the 2010 killing of Susan Karabulut, 33. Walton was also tried for Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury upon Lisa Mcle based on the same incident. Yesterday, in Courtroom 5370, a jury found Walton guilty of all charges.



Leah Walton

On August 22, 2010, the defendant was driving on Craig Ave. when she crossed the center line and the opposing lane of travel. She jumped the curb and drove her car almost 100 feet on the sidewalk before striking the victims. Both of the victims were nurses at White Oak Manor, a nursing home in Charlotte.

This morning, The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Walton to 31-47 months in prison. Upon her release from prison, Walton will then serve 6 years of supervised probation. As conditions of probation Walton must serve another four months in prison, and undergo mental health and substance abuse evaluations. Judge Levinson also suspended Walton's driver's license for five years, ordered her to perform 125 hours of community service, and pay approximately thirty thousand dollars in restitution to her victims.

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