

NEWS RELEASE

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Woman pleads guilty to 3 counts of involuntary manslaughter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – This morning, Carlene Atkinson, 47, pled guilty to three counts of involuntary manslaughter. She was sentenced by The Honorable H. William Constangy, Superior Court Judge, to 32-40 months in prison.

The charges arose from a car wreck that occurred at around 6:30 P.M. on April 4, 2009, at the intersection of York Road and River Pointe Drive. The collision involved a red and black Mitsubishi Eclipse which was driven by another defendant in this case, Tyler Stasko. Stasko's vehicle collided with a Mercedes driven by Cynthia Furr, 45. Cynthia Furr was killed in the collision as was her daughter, McAllister Price, 2, who was in the car with her. Hunter Holt, a 13-year old passenger in Stasko's car was also killed in the collision.

Witnesses reported seeing Atkinson's car, a black 2002 Camaro, racing the red and black Eclipse. According to witnesses, the race started at the intersection of York Rd and Shopton Road and continued for approximately one and one-half miles until they came to the intersection of York Road and River Point Drive. Witnesses estimated the speed of the vehicles to be between 70-100 MPH at various points on the path. After the collision, witnesses reported seeing the driver and two passengers get out of the Camaro, which did not sustain any damage, and run to the Eclipse and then get back in the Camaro and leave the scene.

Atkinson was identified as the driver of the Camaro when one of the passengers in her car contacted police. Police spoke to Atkinson and she claimed to have witnessed the collision but denied any involvement in it. At no time did the defendant call the police to report the collision.

The State tried Stasko for three counts of second-degree murder in December of 2011. He was convicted of three counts of the lesser-included charge of involuntary manslaughter. Based on the evidence that was presented at Stasko's trial, and consultation with the families of both victims, the State agreed to allow Atkinson to enter the guilty pleas to three counts of involuntary manslaughter.

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