

NEWS RELEASE

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III**
District Attorney

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Man sentenced to at least 8 years in prison for wreck that killed Charlotte chef

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team convicted 5 defendants during administrative sessions that took place on July 18, 2024. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Reggie E. McKnight, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Alejandro Chavez-Gomez, 24, pled guilty to 1) felony death by vehicle and 2) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Judge McKnight sentenced him in the aggravated range to 70-96 months in prison for the felony death by vehicle charge and 26-44 months in prison on the second charge. Those sentences will run consecutively.

On March 18, 2023, Chavez-Gomez was traveling east on Central Avenue in a 2014 Nissan Sentra at approximately 94 mph. As Chavez-Gomez attempted to merge into the left lane, he struck a 2012 Hyundai Genesis, driven by Kendall Ross, 29, from behind. The Hyundai went off the road, struck a power pole and wedged between an embankment and the power pole. Mr. Ross, a local chef, succumbed to his injuries, and his wife, who was the passenger in his vehicle, sustained life-threatening injuries. Detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department determined that Chavez-Gomez was impaired at the time of the accident.

Gregorio Aguirre-Romero, 44, pled guilty to second-degree murder. Judge McKnight sentenced him to 125-162 months in prison.

On November 8, 2023, officers with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department responded to a two-car wreck with injuries. Aguirre-Romero was found in the driver's seat of a white Ford Econoline van. Roberto Martinez, 54, was found trapped in the driver's seat of a red Chevy Express van. Martinez was extricated from the vehicle by members of the Charlotte Fire Department and transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Subsequent investigation revealed Real Time Crime Center video of Aguirre-Romero driving down Sugar Creek Road into oncoming traffic to get around other vehicles. He did this at least twice before the wreck happened. While passing Reagan Drive heading toward I-85, he sideswiped a Toyota Corolla traveling in the opposite direction of travel. He continued without stopping and drove at approximately 70 mph in a 40 mph zone when he crossed the center line into oncoming traffic a third time striking Roberto Martinez head-on.

Jamal Dean, 25, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) felony breaking or entering for the June 5, 2023 killing of Britton Owens, 31. Judge McKnight sentenced him to a consolidated sentence of 292-363 months in prison. Dean also admitted to violating the terms of his probation for a previous conviction. Judge McKnight revoked that probation and activated his suspended sentence of 19-32 months. That sentence will run concurrent to the new sentence.

Dequayvius Young, 29, pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon for the July 24, 2022 killing of Christopher McGill. Judge McKnight sentenced Young to a consolidated sentence of 300-372 months in prison.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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