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PRISON SENTENCE FOR RECKLESS HOMICIDE OF COMBAT ARMY VETERAN

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Jaylin Buckner (dob: 5/6/02 653 Otter Way) of Oswego, Illinois was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in the Illinois Department of Corrections on one count of Reckless Homicide and a concurrent 2 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on one count of Aggravated Unlawful Use of an Electronic Communication Device. Reckless Homicide is a class 3 felony where the Court can impose a maximum sentence of 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Charges were filed after a tragic crash on July 1, 2021. Buckner was speeding eastbound on Mill Road towards Lynx Lane in Oswego and struck a pedestrian, Antonio Villarreal, while he was in the crosswalk of Mill Road. Villarreal was violently thrown into the air and was killed from the impact. The Oswego Police Department conducted a thorough investigation into the circumstances that caused this tragedy. By analyzing the vehicles data recorder, officers found that Buckner's vehicle was traveling approximately 60 MPH in a 35 MPH zone prior to the crash and Buckner never applied the brakes. After analyzing Buckner's phone, it was determined that he was actively using his phone for Snapchat immediately preceding the crash. Buckner plead guilty on May 30, 2023, and was sentenced last Friday. Buckner was immediately taken into custody to begin his prison sentence.

Weis praised the hard work and dedication of the Oswego Police Department for their investigation and pursuit of justice for the Villarreal Family. The Villarreal family read several heartfelt and emotional victim impact statements to Judge Pilmer during the sentencing phase about the loss of Antonio Villarreal. Villarreal was a 32-year-old combat veteran that served tours overseas as a Staff Sgt. in the Army. Villarreal is survived by his parents, siblings, and two children.

Weis expresses his condolences to the Villarreal Family, “This country lost a true patriot and outstanding individual on July 1, 2021. The fact that someone can serve so courageously and return home to be killed in such a senseless, preventable way, is a tragedy beyond words. This tragedy could have been prevented. Let it serve as a reminder of the consequences of distracted driving. My deepest sympathies to the family of Antonio Villarreal.”

Assistant State’s Attorney Ryan Phelps and State’s Attorney Weis prosecuted the case against Buckner. Buckner was represented by Attorney Peter Ciesielski.