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SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

For Immediate Release
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Defendant Pleads Guilty to Hit and Run with Great Bodily Injury and is Sentenced to 10 Years

Charleston, S.C.-- Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced that Onerea Jones pled guilty to Hit and Run with Great Bodily Injury on September 1, 2022. Jones faced a maximum of 10 years and was sentenced to the full 10 years by the Honorable Benjamin H. Culbertson.

Assistant Solicitors Ryan O’Kane and Daniel Cooper prosecuted the case against Jones. During the hearing, O’Kane recounted that on the evening of March 8, 2019, Jones was driving north on King Street Extension when he struck the victim who was crossing the street on foot. As the victim laid unresponsive, Jones left the scene. Jones immediately went to the nearest gas station (Circle K on Meeting Street Road) and bought two beers. The impact of the incident left the victim with permanent injuries including, traumatic brain injury, multiple broken bones, and paralysis.

Officers were able to gather surveillance video from the Circle K Gas Station which shows the defendant pull into the gas station within one minute of the incident. The video clearly shows severe damage on the front of the vehicle. The front passenger headlight was cracked and dangling off the vehicle, the hood had a major dent, and the windshield on the passenger side was cracked.

Officers with Charleston Police Department (CPD) were able to arrest the defendant the next day on March 9, 2019. Officers were able to locate the vehicle based on the surveillance video from the gas station. Jones parked the vehicle in the driveway at his mother’s house, which was a quarter mile from where the incident occurred.

Jones has a prior history dating back to 1991:

- 1991- Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute
- 1993- Possession of Marijuana
- 1994- Trespassing and Resisting Arrest
- 1996- Driving Under Suspension
- 2000- Driving Under Suspension 2nd
- 2006- Driving Under the Influence 1st Offense
- 2007- Possession of Cocaine 1st Offense; Driving Under Suspension
- 2011- Possession of Marijuana; Failure to Appear
- 2014- Filing a False Police Report

The Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s office is extremely appreciative for the diligent work of both CPD and the individuals who provided the information necessary to bring about this conviction.

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