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## **Ten-Year Sentence for Man Convicted of Reckless Homicide and Leaving the Scene of an Accident**

*Charleston, S.C.*— Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that The Honorable Dale Van Slambrook sentenced Xavier Rosado to ten years in prison on charges of Reckless Homicide, Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Death and Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Great Bodily Injury after a guilty plea on Monday July 28, 2025. The guilty plea came as the State prepared to call the case to trial. Senior Litigator Timmy Finch prosecuted the case.

The guilty plea stemmed from an October 4, 2021, crash on Interstate 26 near mile marker 214. The crash occurred when the Defendant and the victims were travelling eastbound around 1:00 a.m. The Defendant was travelling approximately 139 mph at the time his Porsche Cayenne struck the rear of the Victims' Nissan SUV. The impact sent the Nissan Careening off the highway and into the grassy shoulder where it overturned, and the victims became entrapped.

Rosado exited his vehicle and fled, not alerting emergency personnel of the crash or rendering aid to the victims. Passersby called 911 and the South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) responded and began investigating. SCHP discovered the victims in the overturned Nissan and began rescue efforts. After roughly 30 minutes, the North Charleston Fire Department extricated the victims from the vehicle and EMS transported both to MUSC. The driver of the Nissan, a 23-year-old woman, died from her injuries. The passenger, a 22-year-old male, suffered broken bones including ribs and a vertebrae, lacerations, a traumatic brain injury and lost sense of smell.

Twenty minutes after the crash, Rosado called 911 to report his car stolen from a nightclub in North Charleston. Real-time investigation by North Charleston Police determined that his story was a lie. Further investigation by SCHP's Multi-disciplinary Accident investigation Team (MAIT) determined that Rosado was the driver of the Porsche based on analysis of phone records, physical injuries to Rosado's person, and DNA evidence, processed by SLED, from the airbag and various locations from the front seat area of the Porsche.

In sentencing Rosado, Judge Van Slambrook called the actions by Rosado, "The epitome of recklessness." The ten-year sentence was the maximum for the Reckless Homicide and the Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Great Bodily Injury. Leaving the Scene with Death carried a potential sentence of up to 25 years in prison.

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