



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Jury Convicts Detroit Man of Murder in Fatal Hit-and-Run

FLINT – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said he appreciates this afternoon's jury verdict that found a Detroit man guilty of second degree murder in the 2009 Mt. Morris Township hit-and-run that killed a Flint man.

Otto Harris, 52 (d.o.b. 12/23/1958) of Detroit, was convicted on five counts including second degree murder, two counts of assault with intent to murder, one count of failing to stop at scene of an accident- when at fault - resulting in death, and operating while intoxicated causing death. Second degree murder and the assault charges carry up to life in prison while the other three charges are 15-year felonies.

Harris was driving a car south on Clio Road near Carpenter Road on September 17, 2009 with his girlfriend and another couple, 19-year-old Michael Burch and his 17-year-old girlfriend, as passengers.

An argument ensued inside the vehicle and the three passengers exited the vehicle and began walking east through a parking lot on Carpenter Road. Harris then drove out of his lane of traffic, into the parking lot and directly at both Burch and Burch's girlfriend, striking both with his car.

Harris then ordered his own girlfriend back into the car and the two continued driving east on Carpenter and south onto I-475. An eyewitness to the incident followed Harris' vehicle, police were called, and Harris was apprehended.

Burch's girlfriend was injured and survived the incident but Burch died from his injuries two days later prompting Prosecutor Leyton to charge Harris with murder.

"I appreciate the jury's verdict," said Prosecutor Leyton. "Otto Harris murdered Michael Burch with his car."

Harris is scheduled to be sentenced on April 19, 2011 in Genesee County Circuit Court.

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