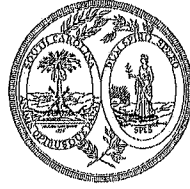


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Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

November 9, 2016

**Greenville Man Sentenced on Attempted Murder and
Traffic-Related Death Charges**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that JOHN WILLIAM KENNEDY, age 27, pled guilty on November 9, 2016 to charges of Attempted Murder, Failure to Stop for Blue Lights Resulting in Death, Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Death, Reckless Homicide, and Grand Larceny. KENNEDY was sentenced to twenty years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia Verdin on the Attempted Murder charge, and an additional 10 years in prison on the Grand Larceny charge. Sentences on the remaining charges of ranged from 10 to 20 years, and will be served concurrently with the Attempted Murder charge. Service of the consecutive 10 year Grand Larceny sentence was suspended upon the service of two years of community supervision followed by 5 years of probation following the completion of his 20 year sentence.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Deputy Solicitor Andrew Culbreath established that on September 17, 2015, JOHN WILLIAM KENNEDY stole a vehicle from his former girlfriend's father and attempted to sell it to co-defendant Ashley Moore. KENNEDY and Moore met at TD's Express Mart at around 6:45a.m. on the morning of September 17, 2015 and began transferring items from the stolen truck into Ashley Moore's truck. Deputies with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office received information regarding the possible location of the truck at TD's Express Mart and, upon arrival, observed the truck matching the description and the two men. As Deputies approached, KENNEDY saw them and jumped into Mr. Moore's truck in an attempt to flee the scene. One Deputy approached

the truck and shouted for KENNEDY to stop, but KENNEDY accelerated toward the Deputy and struck him in the leg as the Deputy attempted to jump out of the way. The Deputy fired his weapon at the truck as it sped toward him, striking KENNEDY in the forehead. KENNEDY was able to escape the parking lot and led Deputies on a high speed pursuit down Poinsett highway and along HWY 25 North into the Travers Rest area. As KENNEDY reached the intersection of HWY 25 and 414, he crossed over into oncoming traffic and began driving against oncoming traffic in a further effort to elude law enforcement. Upon seeing KENNEDY driving recklessly against oncoming traffic, the decision was made to stop the pursue and all law enforcement vehicles slowed down, moved to the right lane, and turned off their blue lights. Despite this, KENNEDY continued down Hwy 25 in the wrong direction at high speed until he ultimately struck and killed Mr. Jordan Howard, a firefighter from the River Falls area of Greenville, who was driving his motorcycle to work that morning. Even after the crash, KENNEDY continued his attempt to escape by exiting his crashed vehicle and running across the roadway and into a tree line nearby. Both deputies and eyewitnesses observed him running and quickly apprehended him.

JOHN WILLIAM KENNEDY will have to serve at least 85% of the 20 year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.