

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodstock woman pleads guilty to vehicular homicide charges in 2020 crash
State vs. Amelia Brooke Stringer

September 1, 2021 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that, on Wednesday, August 4, Amelia Brooke Stringer, 32, was sentenced for homicide by vehicle in the first degree (4 counts), driving under the influence (3 counts), reckless driving, driving while license suspended, and possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance. Stringer previously pled guilty to these charges during a virtual hearing held on June 16.

Stringer caused a multi-vehicle crash in Woodstock on November 22, 2020. The collision started when she drove her Ford Expedition through a red light on Highway 92 while traveling northbound on Main Street. Stringer's vehicle struck the driver's side of a Honda Civic driven by Kaitlin "Katy" Jade Martin, 25, pushing Martin's car into a Jeep Liberty, which then collided with a GMC Sierra.

Martin died of blunt force trauma of the torso, sustained during the motor vehicle collision. Passengers of the other vehicles were transported to area hospitals, where they were treated and released for their injuries.

While investigating the crash, law enforcement officers noticed an "overwhelming odor" of alcoholic beverage emanating from Stringer. After the accident, she admitted to drinking Malibu Rum and taking medications including Risperdal, Xanax, and Methadone. Her blood alcohol level was recorded at 0.12 (0.08 is considered a per se violation of Georgia's DUI Statute). Toxicology also revealed levels of Xanax and Methadone present in her blood.

Woodstock Police arrested Stringer on November 25 when she was discharged from the hospital. At the time of the crash, Stringer's license had been suspended pending a prior DUI in Fulton County in August 2020.

During the sentencing hearing, three family members traveled from Chattanooga to provide victim impact statements. They described their grief and pain at losing such a special person to a senseless crime.

Born in Chattanooga, Martin graduated from East Hamilton High School and completed an associate's degree in journalism from Chattanooga State Community College. She was employed as an event coordinator and editor for *Concert Hopper*. At the time of the crash, she was running errands just a short distance from her home.

"This case should serve as a reminder that the scourge of drunk driving remains in our county, and anyone can be the victim of this crime," said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney David Holmes, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "Kaitlin Martin won't get to see her 30th birthday because Amelia Stringer decided it

was more important for her to drive, while drunk, on drugs, and when her license was suspended. This crime is totally preventable if people will simply stop making such selfish decisions.”

Cherokee County Superior Court Judge Anthony Baker sentenced the defendant to 19 years, with the first 10 years to be served in confinement and the remainder on probation. During probation, Stringer must perform 240 hours of community service, pay restitution, have no contact with the victim’s family, participate in the MADD Victim Impact Panel, receive evaluation and treatment for mental health and substance abuse, take all medications as prescribed, attend two 12-step meetings per week, wear a SCRAM monitoring device for one year following release, avoid alcohol and drugs, and not possess firearms.

“On November 22, 2020, this defendant made a series of bad choices that caused a life to be tragically cut short and parents to mourn the death of their only child,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “This defendant chose to drink and take medications, drive with a suspended license, and run a red light on a busy highway, ultimately causing the death of an innocent young woman. These unnecessary tragedies need to stop.”

Drunk driving is the #1 cause of death on our roadways, according to MADD. Alcohol, prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, and marijuana, heroin, and other illegal drugs can cause significant impairment. If you are impaired, do not drive. Call a friend or rideshare. For more information, see MADD.org.

The Cherokee Sheriff’s Office also assisted in the investigation of this crash, through the Cherokee County Multi-Jurisdictional Accident Investigation team.

The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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