

**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

**Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor**

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE, JULY 1, 2024

## Repeat impaired driver sees conviction, sentence upheld



Pete Paul Urick, 56, formerly of Herner County Line Road, Southington, had the appeal of his consecutive four-year prison sentence and conviction for two counts of failure to stop after an accident and one count of tampering with evidence, upheld by the Ohio 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals.

The court, in a decision written June 28 by Judge Robert J. Patton and joined by Judges Mary Jane Trapp and Matt Lynch, upheld the judgment of Trumbull County Judge Ronald J. Rice.

Urick and his attorney in the appeal had claimed the trial court had erred by not merging the “allied offenses of similar import” when rendering the consecutive sentences. However, the appeals judges disagreed, saying previous Ohio case law has sided with the trial court’s determination that offenses committed with a separate animus do not merge.

Urick was driving a Ford pickup truck on Corey Hunt Road on New Year’s Eve in 2021 when he struck the scooters ridden by Leona and David Fisher. The Fishers received serious injuries, while Urick left the scene and prosecutors stated the defendant tried to hide the damage vehicle from investigators by purchasing new parts for the truck.

During a Dec. 19, 2023, plea and sentencing hearing, Urick was also ordered to pay restitution totaling more than \$2 million to the couple to cover both medical expenses and lost wages.

Assistant Prosecutor Michael Burnett in a sentencing memo, stated that Urick was involved in a 1990 fatal vehicular crash, and Judge Rice pointed out a long list of other criminal offenses.

Judge Rice, who stated consecutive sentences were necessary to protect the public because of the defendant’s conduct, also suspended Urick’s driver’s license for three years.

Burnett worked the case at the trial court level, while Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Sanders handled the case for the state in front of the 11<sup>th</sup> District Court.

Urick will continue to serve his prison sentence at Trumbull Correctional Institution in Warren.

For more information, contact Guy Vogrin, investigator / public information officer, Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, 330-675-2485.