

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Driver in fatal Sag Harbor DWI who left crash scene arraigned on 13-count indictment

The developer involved in a fatal hit-and-run crash in Sag Harbor last summer pleaded not guilty today to a 13 count indictment charging him aggravated vehicular homicide and other crimes at his arraignment in Central Islip, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

SCDA Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief John Scott Prudenti told Justice Fernando Camacho that defendant Sean Ludwick's blood had a blood-alcohol content of .18 percent four hours after the August 30 crash that killed his passenger Paul Hansen, 53, of Sag Harbor.

ADA Prudenti said forensic evidence from the crash investigation established Mr. Ludwick removed the victim's body from his car and drove away, leaving the corpse within feet of Mr. Hansen's driveway on Rolling Hill Court East in Sag Harbor where Ludwick struck a utility pole at a curve. The mangled rims of the damaged Porsche left a trail of gouged pavement to Woodvale Street, approximately a quarter-mile from the crash, where Southampton Town police found the defendant standing by the wreckage when they placed him under arrest for driving while intoxicated.

Ludwick is free on \$1 million bond and was directed today by the court to surrender his passport.

The indictment charges the defendant with aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular manslaughter, manslaughter, driving while intoxicated, aggravated driving while intoxicated, leaving the scene, reckless driving, speeding, failure to stay in a single lane and driving on the shoulder or slope of the roadway.

The top charge of aggravated vehicular homicide is punishable by a sentence in state prison of eight and one-third to 25 years, DA Spota said. Leaving the scene of a crash resulting in serious injury or death is punishable by a maximum of two and one-third to seven years in an upstate correctional facility.

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A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.