

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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Doctor pleads guilty to fatal hit and run crash

A Setauket cardiologist has pleaded guilty to manslaughter, DWI and leaving the scene of a fatal 2014 crash in Smithtown, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

On June 14 of last year Thomas Stavola, 56 was driving his 2013 Audi around northbound on Rte. 111 when he broadsided Monica Peterman, an X-Ray technician who was traveling westbound on Rte. 25 on her way to work at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center; the medical facility where she was later pronounced dead.

Dr. Stavola's blood taken 90 minutes after the crash showed a blood alcohol content of .10.

After the defendant's guilty plea before State Supreme Court Justice Fernando Camacho, relatives of the victim said they fully supported the disposition of the case which will see Stavola serve two years behind bars.

Monica Peterman's husband, Russell said his family realized they had to let go of the anger they felt towards the defendant and realize Dr. Stavola is deserving of another chance "to go back to helping people," Peterman said.

Stavola will also serve five years' probation.



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