



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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For Immediate Release:

Sykesville Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Traffic Fatality Involving Cocaine Use

Howard County, MD (May 5, 2021) – John Anthony Bryant, Jr., age 26, was sentenced today by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Quincy Coleman to serve 10 years in prison for Auto Manslaughter and received a 1-year suspended sentence for Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS). His sentence will be served at the Division of Correction. Bryant pleaded guilty to both charges on February 12, 2021.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, at 8:55 am, Bryant was driving erratically down Route 32 approaching Route 108 when he tried to maneuver his vehicle around a slower car and struck the left rear corner of a vehicle driven by Jonathan Bos. The collision caused Mr. Bos's vehicle to leave the road and flip multiple times before coming to a final rest against a road sign support post. Bos was transported to Maryland Shock Trauma immediately following the collision where he was pronounced dead six days later following the incident. A medical examiner concluded that the cause of Bos's death was multiple injuries with complications from a motor vehicle accident.

Howard County Police recovered two vials that Bryant threw out of his vehicle immediately following the crash. A forensic scientist with Maryland State Police tested the evidence and determined that one of the vials contained a trace amount of cocaine. Police also conducted standard field sobriety tests. Once Bryant was arrested, they conducted a search and found a glass smoking device with brownish residue in Bryant's front pants pocket. While at the hospital to receive medical care, Bryant's blood was tested and found positive for alprazolam and benzoylecgonine, which is a cocaine metabolite.

Howard County Police obtained a warrant for the airbag module in Bryant's vehicle. They discovered Bryant was not wearing a seatbelt and accelerated his speed from 104mph to 107mph just prior to the collision. There was also no indication of breaking prior to impact. The posted speed limit in that area is 55mph.

"We are pleased Judge Coleman chose to exceed sentencing guidelines in this case," said State's Attorney Rich Gibson. "The level of harm caused by the defendant's reckless actions not only resulted in the senseless death of a treasured man in our community, but also generated a detrimental impact on the public safety of our roads."

Upon his release, Bryant will serve five years supervised probation, participate in drug and alcohol evaluation, testing and treatment, random urinalysis, the MADD victim impact panel and abstain from drugs and alcohol.

Senior Assistant State's Attorneys' Patricia L. Cecil and Danielle M. Duclaux prosecuted this case.

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