
Amity supervisor get jail for Stowe DUI

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NORRISTOWN – An Amity Township supervisor is headed to jail next weekend after he admitted that he was driving drunk at the time he was involved in a West Pottsgrove crash that injured a 3-year-old child.

Terry Jones, 47, of the 100 block of Worman Road, was sentenced in Montgomery County Court to eight days to six months in the county jail after he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and recklessly endangering other persons in connection with the 7:35 p.m. Feb. 11, 2011, two-vehicle crash in the 1600 block of West High Street in Stowe.

Judge Steven T. O'Neill, who accepted a plea agreement in the case, said Jones can serve his minimum sentence over the course of four consecutive weekends beginning Feb. 3. The judge further ordered Jones to complete one year of probation after he's paroled from jail.

According to the Amity Township website, Jones' term as supervisor ends Dec. 31, 2015.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Lauren McNulty. Defense lawyer Paul A. Bauer III represented Jones during the plea agreement negotiations.

Specifically, Jones admitted that at the time of the crash he was operating his vehicle with a blood-alcohol content of 0.091 percent, which is above the legal blood-alcohol content of 0.08 percent for Pennsylvania drivers. With the guilty plea, Jones also admitted he recklessly engaged in conduct that placed Shannon Nester, the driver of the second car, and her 3-year-old daughter in danger of death or serious bodily injury.

The judge also ordered Jones to pay \$81,078 in restitution to Nester to cover medical costs associated with the crash. However, the judge indicated if insurance subsidizes any part or the full restitution amount, then Jones is not responsible for that amount.

Just two weeks ago, Nester 25, of East Vine Street, Stowe, was sentenced to five years' probation and parenting classes after she pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of endangering the welfare of a child in connection with the crash.

With the charges, authorities alleged Nester did not properly restrain her 3-year-old daughter in a child safety seat. Police alleged the little girl was unrestrained in the rear seat of the vehicle at the time of the crash.

County prosecutors previously turned down requests from both Jones and Nester to be admitted to the county's Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program, a special probationary program for first-time offenders of non-violent crimes, which allows offenders to clear their criminal records after successfully completing a probationary period.

As a result, both Jones and Nester will have permanent criminal records.

An investigation began after township police responded to the report of a two-vehicle crash and found Jones, who appeared to have a head injury, walking around outside his Ford Explorer

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Nester, who was driving a Mitsubishi Lancer, and her 3-year-old daughter, were treated at Lehigh Valley Hospital for injuries, police said. The little girl, who was flown by medical helicopter to the hospital, suffered "a small hematoma with left sided facial fractures," according to the criminal complaint.

Jones also was transported to a local hospital for treatment, court papers indicate.

"As officers spoke to Jones they detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage about his person and breath," West Pottsgrove Detective Sergeant Steven J. Ziegler alleged in the criminal complaint.

A blood test subsequently determined Jones had a blood-alcohol content of 0.091 percent, which is above the legal blood-alcohol content for Pennsylvania drivers, according to court papers.

"Jones was interviewed at a later date and stated he consumed alcoholic beverages at a local tavern on the date in question. After leaving the tavern he drove to the Dunkin Donuts that was a short distance away," Ziegler alleged in the arrest affidavit.

"Jones further said that after getting a coffee he attempted to exit the parking lot of the Dunkin Donuts onto West High Street, failing to safely enter the highway and was struck by an oncoming vehicle," Ziegler alleged.

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