



NEWS RELEASE

September 3, 2015
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Street Racer Sentenced to 12 Years in Fatal Crash

David Felan was sentenced to 12 years in prison Thursday for vehicular homicide-DUI and vehicular assault in a drag race that claimed the life of 26-year-old Rachel Neiman last fall.

Felan (DOB 10/26/86) had a blood alcohol content of .128 when he lost control of his vehicle, drove into oncoming traffic and crashed into Neiman's vehicle on Nov. 7.

He and William Anthony Chicano IV (DOB 09/05/80) had been drag racing on Federal Boulevard at 54th Avenue when Neiman was killed and three passengers in her car were injured, including her boyfriend, Antonio McKay; his brother, Christopher Burrell and Neiman's friend, Tess Slapper.

Neiman was a physical therapy student at Regis University, as is Slapper. McKay is a soldier stationed at Fort Carson who was about to be deployed to Africa during the Ebola epidemic when the crash took place. His brother, a veteran, is an elementary school science teacher. The courtroom was packed with friends, family, professors and classmates of Neiman.

"To drink and get behind the wheel of a car puts the community at risk. Engaging in drag racing also puts the community at risk. When you do these two things together, it is an invitation for tragedy," Senior Deputy District Attorney Martin Flaum told the court at the sentencing hearing.

Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor imposed a sentence of 10 years in prison for vehicular homicide-DUI plus two years in prison for vehicular assault. "On Nov. 7, (Felan) gambled with the lives of whoever was on that street," he said. "This was a conscious choice fueled by alcohol to engage in a speed contest."

Flaum said he hoped the sentence would send a message to the community that drinking, driving and drag racing are a deadly combination. "Our hope is that the lessons learned in this case might prevent future tragedy," he said.

Chicano previously pleaded guilty to vehicular assault (F5) and will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m. September 16 in Division F of Adams County District Court.

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