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Tallmadge Man Sentenced to Mandatory Three Years in Prison for Causing Deadly Crash Which Killed Teen

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, August 11, 2017) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Joy Malek-Oldfield sentenced Charles Queer, 64, of Woods Drive in Tallmadge, to a mandatory three years in prison for driving into the back of a disabled vehicle on Interstate 76 in March of 2016, killing the disabled vehicle's driver. Judge Oldfield also fined Mr. Queer \$15,000 dollars and ordered his driver's license be suspended for life.

On June 6, 2017, Judge Oldfield found Queer guilty of the following charges:

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

On Sunday morning March 27, 2016, 17-year-old Patricia Powell was in her car, which was broken down on the side of I-76 in Akron. Queer, who was driving drunk, smashed into the back of Powell's car, killing the teen.

"This was a horrible tragedy. Patricia was a bright light for her family and our community and she was taken away because of a selfish act," said Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott. "Mr. Queer was drunk when he got behind the wheel and stole memories of Patricia's future from her friends and family. My hope is that this will make others think twice about driving while impaired."