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Akron Woman Sentenced to Prison for Causing Deadly Crash

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, October 11, 2023) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Jessica Skinner, 22, of East Market Street in Akron, to six to nine years in prison for driving drunk and causing a crash which killed a 41-year-old woman.

Judge McCarty also suspended Skinner's driver's license for life.

On August 2, 2023, Skinner pled guilty to the indictment in which she was charged with the following:

- One Count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a Felony of the 2nd Degree
- One Count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a Felony of the 3rd Degree
- One Count of Operating a Vehicle While Impaired – a Misdemeanor of the 1st Degree

Just before midnight on May 12, 2022, Jessica Skinner was travelling eastbound in the westbound lanes of Interstate 76 near South Arlington Road in Akron when she slammed head-on into a vehicle driven by 41-year-old Lisabeth Dayton. Dayton died from injuries suffered in the crash. Skinner also suffered significant injuries and is confined to a wheelchair. At the time of the crash, Skinner's blood alcohol content was .248, over three times the legal limit.

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“This tragedy was completely avoidable. Jessica Skinner made the decision to get behind the wheel drunk and unfortunately killed an innocent person,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I urge people to use a designated driver or call for a ride if you are going out and drinking alcohol. This is why my office sponsors the ArriveAlive campaign several times a year in Summit County. In over five years we have provided over 3,000 free rides through ArriveAlive.”