

**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

**Dennis Watkins**, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE, DEC. 27, 2023

## Repeat impaired driver sentenced to four years in prison



Pete Paul Urick, 55, of Herner County Line Road, Southington, received consecutive prison sentences totaling four years after previously pleading guilty to two counts of failure to stop after an accident and one count of tampering with evidence.

Urick was driving a Ford pickup truck on Corey Hunt Road on New Year's Eve in 2021 when he struck the scooters ridden by Leona and David Fisher. The Fishers received serious injuries, while Urick left the scene and prosecutors stated the defendant tried to hide the damage vehicle from investigators by purchasing new parts for the truck.

During the Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, hearing, Urick was also ordered to pay restitution totaling more than \$2 million to the couple to cover both medical expenses and lost wages.

Assistant Prosecutor Michael Burnett in a sentencing memo, stated that Urick was involved in a 1990 fatal vehicular crash, and Judge Rice pointed out a long list of other criminal offenses.

Judge Rice, who stated consecutive sentences were necessary to protect the public because of the defendant's conduct, also suspended Urick's driver's license for three years.

Prosecutor Dennis Watkins praises the effort of Mike Burnett in this case which involved 10 search warrants and numerous subpoenas with time spent by him and Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper Mike Royko. Also, it was Burnett, head of the office's Aggravated Vehicular Homicide Unit, who worked hand in hand with Watkins in obtaining one of Ohio's first successful pre-trial detention of an accused impaired driver in 2010.

This was a case background similar to Urick's, involving impaired driver Keith Urso, who had previously killed behind the wheel in a fatal crash involving a hay wagon. In his 2010 OVI case, Urso was ordered by Judge Andrew D. Logan to be held without bond and was later sentenced to serve 10 years in prison.

In the Urick case, victim Davd Fisher delivered a victim's impact statement telling the judge the accident has changed their lives with his wife still facing more medical procedures. The defendant told the judge he takes full responsibility, saying he has always dealt with alcohol and mental health issues.

For more information, contact Guy Vogrin, investigator / public information officer, Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, 330-675-2485.