



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

District Attorney McMahon: Hit-and-Run Driver Indicted for Murder After Allegedly Causing Crash that Killed a Young Mother on Staten Island

The defendant was allegedly fleeing from police in a stolen car when he caused the fatal crash that killed 32-year-old Christine Dahlstrom

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that defendant Tashawn Beckford has been arraigned on an indictment in which he is charged with Murder in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny, Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting, and related charges for allegedly causing a vehicular collision that killed 32-year-old Christine Dahlstrom and also left the driver of the car she was traveling in with serious injuries.

Defendant Tashawn Beckford, 23, of Newark, NJ, was arraigned today in Staten Island Supreme Court before Justice Marina Cora Mundy and was ordered remanded without bail.

“This defendant caused an absolutely horrific tragedy that began with him allegedly stealing a vehicle from a driveway on Staten Island and ended with him allegedly killing a young mother as he attempted to flee from police,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “Following an extensive investigation by the NYPD and my office’s Vehicular Crimes Unit, this defendant has now been arrested and indicted for this terrible incident, and we will continue to vigorously pursue justice for the victim and her family.”

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, on April 25, 2020, the defendant allegedly stole a 2019 Lexus SUV from a driveway on Staten Island. When police attempted to arrest the defendant that same day, he allegedly fled at a high rate of speed (approximately 80 mph, two and a half times the speed limit), driving on the wrong side of the road at Arden Avenue and Annadale Road, and going through a steady red traffic light. At that time, as the defendant allegedly drove the stolen vehicle through the traffic light, he crashed the ve-

hicle into a 2012 Ford SUV that had the right of way. The driver of that vehicle sustained serious physical injuries to various parts of his body, while the passenger, Christine Dahlstrom, was killed in the collision from a multitude of blunt force impact injuries. The defendant then allegedly fled the scene of the crash. NYPD and RCDA conducted a four-month investigation that led into New Jersey where the defendant was eventually arrested.

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The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by ADA Frank Prospero, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Unit.

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