



## Orange County News

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For Immediate Release  
Friday, January 06, 2017

Contact: Christopher Borek  
845.291.3276, 845.238.4245c

### **District Attorney Hoovler Announces Guilty Plea in New Windsor Vehicular Manslaughter Case**

*While Driving Drunk, Defendant Struck and Killed a Pedestrian*

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced on Thursday, January 5, 2017, that, Michael Rule, age 33, of Pine Bush, pled guilty to one count of Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree, in connection with his June 13, 2016, killing of a pedestrian on Route 300 in New Windsor. Rule faces up to two and one-third to seven years in prison when he is sentenced on March 16, 2017, before County Court Judge Craig Stephen Brown.

On June 13, 2016, between approximately 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Rule was driving on Route 300 in the Town of New Windsor. A pedestrian was also walking down the road, and Rule struck the pedestrian from behind, resulting in injuries that ultimately killed the pedestrian.

Rule then left the scene of the collision. A few miles away in the Town of Newburgh, a couple, who had not seen the collision, saw Rule driving his car with extensive front end damage, so they followed him and called the police, because they suspected he had been involved in a collision. The civilians followed Rule for several miles, relaying Rule's license plate number and his direction of travel to police the entire time. The civilians continued to follow Rule and report to police, even after Rule got into the passenger seat a car driven by another man, who had nothing to do with the collision. Police arrived within minutes and arrested Rule in the second car. A blood test done on Rule revealed that his blood-alcohol level was .15 percent. DNA evidence also linked Rule's car to the deceased pedestrian.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the Town of New Windsor and Town of Newburgh Police Departments for their efforts in the investigation and prosecution of the case.

"All of us are entitled to be safe on our roadways," said District Attorney Hoovler, "and that is especially true of pedestrians, who haven't even chosen to get into a car themselves. When someone decides to get drunk, and then get behind the wheel of a car, they endanger everyone

else on the road, driver and pedestrian alike. My office will continue to seek significant sentences for those who injure or kill others while driving drunk.”

District Attorney Hoovler commended Senior Assistant District Attorney Kelle Grimmer for her prosecution of the case.

A criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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