



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alleged Drunk Driving Juvenile Who Killed Motorist Arraigned for Murder

Mount Clemens, MI - Today, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office arraigned a 17-year-old in connection with an alleged drunk driving incident that caused a man's death.

It is alleged that on Sunday, January 7, 2024, a 17-year-old juvenile was driving under the influence of alcohol and driving near 90 mph when he struck a vehicle and killed 26-year-old Austin Southwell in Shelby Twp.

The juvenile was charged with Second Degree Murder (life felony). He was arraigned in Sterling Heights District Court by Magistrate James VerPloeg where bond was set at \$250,000 cash/surety only, and if released he must have alcohol and drug testing seven times a month, and an alcohol tether. A Probable Cause Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 9:00 am via zoom.

"Our pursuit of justice is unwavering. In the face of profound loss, we stand committed to holding this individual accountable for his choices and ensuring that the legal process unfolds with diligence and fairness," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the State of Michigan. All that are accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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