

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

September 12, 2013

Man Sentenced on two Counts of DUI / Felony Driving Under The Influence

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that NICOLAS CHAVEZ-ORTIZ, age 23, pled guilty on September 11, 2013 to two counts of DUI / Felony Driving Under The Influence, one resulting in Great Bodily Injury, and one resulting in death. He also pled guilty to Possession of Cocaine. He was sentenced to 16 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Charles B. Simmons, Jr. NICOLAS CHAVEZ-ORTIZ will have to serve at least 85 % of the 16 year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Sara Lee Drawdy established that on July 13, 2012, NICOLAS CHAVEZ-ORTIZ drove a Ford F-150 pickup truck at a high rate of speed on US 25 and ran off the right side of the roadway, striking several construction barriers before ploughing into the driver's side door of the Honda Civic sedan being driven by Samir Jaber. Mr. Jaber died in the hospital on 8/5/2012 as a result of his injuries. Mr. Jaber's wife, who was in the front passenger seat of the sedan, was also seriously injured. The crash was investigated by the South Carolina Highway Patrol whose reconstruction team determined that Ortiz was driving at a minimum speed of 66 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone at the time of the crash. A blood sample taken from the defendant almost 3 hours following the collision was tested by SLED and showed a blood alcohol level of 0.17%. Law Enforcement also found an open beer can and two baggies containing cocaine in the defendant's truck. The defendant had no driver's license and the truck was uninsured.

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor