Phil Sorrells
Tarrant County District Attorney
401 West Belknap
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

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Fort Worth Man Sentenced for DWI Crash That Killed Five

Fort Worth, TX – A Tarrant County jury found Eduardo Gonzalez, 21, guilty of five counts of intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle in a high-speed crash that killed five people – including three children.

He was sentenced to 17 years in prison on each count. The court ordered the sentences for the child victims to be served consecutively. The sentences for the two adult victims will be served concurrently, resulting in a total prison term of 68 years. The jury also imposed $50,000 in fines.

"No sentence can restore those lives, but this verdict holds him accountable for every one of them," District Attorney Phil Sorrells said.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Lloyd Whelchel and Neal Maranto prosecuted the case.

Shortly after midnight on August 19, 2024, Gonzalez was driving a Chevy Camaro northbound on Interstate 35 at approximately 130 mph after drinking beer and consuming THC.

Near the East Seminary Drive exit, Gonzalez slammed into the back of another vehicle, causing it to burst into flames.

All five people inside were killed.

The victims were Willie Gunn, 48, Amber Hopewell, 38, and three of Hopewell's children – Elijah Carroll, 9, Chrystale Cobbin, 4, and Amiyah Fisher, 2.

"He was doing 130 down I-35," Whelchel told jurors. "He was high on THC and he had been drinking. He never looked up. He never saw the car."

"He killed that family," he said. "We are asking for justice."

Investigators found several alcoholic beverages in Gonzalez's Camaro. Officers at the scene also reported that his eyes were red and watery, his speech was slurred, and his breath smelled of alcohol.

"The Defendant's actions killed them," Maranto said. "He knew he was intoxicated before this crash, but he kept going."

Special thanks to DA Investigator Lester Couch for his work on the case, as well as to the Fort Worth Police Department for its dedication to pursue justice for the victims and protect our community.

"The families of Willie, Amber, Elijah, Chrystale and Amiyah will live with this loss forever," Sorrells said. "I am grateful to our prosecutors, investigators, and Fort Worth police for giving these victims a voice and fighting for the justice they deserved."

Contact: Anna Tinsley Williams, communications officer, atwilliams@tarrantcountytx.gov
(817) 884-3120 (w); (682) 299-8079 (cell)