

Deadly hit-and-run driver pleads guilty in state supreme court

By **Jim Herr** - January 25, 2018



Paul Hintermeier appears before Town Justice Paul Piotrowski on August 16, 2017. (L to R) Assistant District Attorney Patrick B. Shanahan, Paul Hintermeier, Defense Attorney Richard R. Shaw II. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)

BUFFALO – The driver in a deadly hit-and-run crash this past August on Shanley Street pleaded guilty in State Supreme Court Thursday morning according to the Erie County District Attorney’s Office.

Paul Hintermeier, 37, of Cheektowaga, pleaded guilty before State Supreme Court Justice John L. Michalski to Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree and Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Death.

Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn’s office says on [August 11th](#), Mr. Hintermeier was [driving](#) with a BAC level of .16 when he ran a stop sign hitting Damian Garra, 18, of Cheektowaga, while he was riding his bicycle. Mr. Garra later died at a local hospital.



Accident investigators inventory the scene where a bicyclist was struck on Shanley Street during the early morning hours of August 11, 2017. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)

An eyewitness who spoke to Cheektowaga Chronicle that night on the condition of anonymity said, "He clearly hit something or someone. He knew what he did, and then he sped up after it happened and continued on home."

Cheektowaga Police officers located his vehicle near his home at the dead-end of Shanley Street where he was later arrested. Mr. Flynn commends the investigative work of the Cheektowaga Police Department, including Officer Eric Jakubowicz and Lt. Steven Berez.

A grand jury indicted Mr. Hintermeier this past November.

He faces up to 11 years in prison when he is sentenced on Tuesday, February 6th.

Accident investigators work during the overnight hours on Shanley Street to recreate the crash scene after a bicyclist was struck just after midnight on August 11, 2017. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)