Expressway hit-and-run driver gets six months in jail, probation

By Jim Herr - August 6, 2018



A vehicle rolled over several times along the Westbound Kensington Expressway on May 15, 2018. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)

BUFFALO – The hit-and-run driver who fled the scene of an injury accident on the westbound Kensington Expressway on May 15th will spend six months behind bars according to the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

Carlton Tompkins, 31, of Buffalo, pleaded guilty in June to one count of Leaving the Scene of an Incident Resulting in Personal Injury, an E felony, and one count of Reckless Driving, an A misdemeanor.

Assistant District Attorney Christopher M. McCarthy of the DA's Vehicular Crimes Unit says Mr. Tompkins was driving at a high rate of speed and weaving in and out of traffic without signaling when he veered from the left lane into the center lane colliding with another vehicle driven by a 57-year-old man.

The driver of the other car lost control, hit the concrete median, and flipped over several times. Mr. Tompkins continued driving and was

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followed to his Westminister Avenue address by a witness who was relaying his whereabouts to a police dispatcher. He was later arrested.

When the police confronted Mr. Tompkins about the crash he admitted he knew he hit the victim's car, but drove off because he was "scared."

The victim suffered serious physical injuries, including fractured facial bones and a broken femur.

The crash was investigated by Officer Brian Gray and Officer J. Wodowski of the Cheektowaga Police Accident Investigation Unit.

Mr. Tompkins will be on probation for five years when he is released from jail.

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