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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dayton Man Indicted for Huber Fatal Fiery Crash**

*State v. Cory Harbarger, 2023-CR-0252*

**DAYTON, OH (02/03/2023)** – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **CORY ALLEN HARBARGER**, 27, of Dayton, has been indicted on charges in connection to a fiery traffic crash on January 24, 2023, that took the life of an elderly Tipp City man.

On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, a deputy spotted a BMW in the parking lot of AutoZone on North Dixie Drive in Harrison Township that had been reported stolen from Clark County. The deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the defendant fled from the lot, striking another vehicle in the process. The defendant eventually drove onto Northbound I-75, then East on I-70 towards Huber Heights.

In the area of I-70 and Brandt Pike, the defendant left the highway and went South on Brandt Pike at a high rate of speed. In the 6600 block of Brandt Pike, the defendant crashed the stolen car into several other vehicles. The defendant fled on foot. Soon after the crash, three vehicles, including the stolen vehicle, caught fire.

Officers located the defendant hiding nearby and took him into custody. Two of the other drivers who were in the traffic crash were seriously injured. On January 28, 2023, one of the victims, 68-year-old Steven Jay Carlson, of Tipp City, died as a result of being critically burned in the crash.

Today, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant on:

- Two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- One count of Involuntary Manslaughter
- Three counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault
- Three counts of Vehicular Assault
- Two counts of Failure to Comply with the Order of Signal of a Police Officer
- One count of Receiving Stolen Property – motor vehicle
- One count of Tampering with Evidence
- One count of OVI

At the time of the incident, the defendant was wanted in two unrelated cases. The defendant had been convicted in August 2022 on three counts of receiving stolen property but failed to appear for sentencing and a capias was issued. In the other case, a warrant was issued on October 6, 2022, after the defendant was indicted on counts of aggravated possession of drugs and possession of fentanyl-related compounds.

The defendant is currently in custody, being held on a \$1,500,000 bond. He will be arraigned on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 8:30 am.

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