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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Man Sentenced for Crash that Killed Teen

State v. Caleb Whitfield, 2021-CR-1185

DAYTON, OH (03/16/2022) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **CALEB LANCE WHITFIELD**, 22, of Dayton, was sentenced to serve at least 17 years in prison after being convicted for counts related to a traffic crash that took the life of a passenger in his vehicle on June 25, 2020.

On Thursday, June 25, 2020, Sheriff Deputies in Harrison Township spotted a vehicle that had been reported stolen in an aggravated robbery. When the deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, it struck a detective's vehicle and fled. The deputies followed the vehicle, which was driving extremely recklessly. A short distance from where the pursuit began, the vehicle crashed. The defendant, who was the driver of the vehicle, attempted to flee but was quickly taken into custody. One of the passengers in the vehicle, later identified as 18-year-old Rodnesha Thompson, was killed as a result of the crash. Two other passengers in the vehicle suffered serious injuries.

At the time of the incident, the defendant did not have a driver's license.

On August 11, 2021, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant for:

- One count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- One count of Failure to Comply with the Order or Signal of a Police Officer
- Two counts of Vehicular Assault
- One count of Resisting Arrest

On March 1, 2022, after a trial, the jury returned verdicts of guilty as charged on all counts.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to the maximum and consecutive sentence of at least 17 years in prison. In addition, the defendant's driver's license was ordered to be suspended for life.

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