



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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**PRESS RELEASE
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Woman Convicted of Felony Murder and Aggravated Battery

On May 19, 2023, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting forty-eight-year-old Ronika Carswell of felony murder and aggravated battery. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorneys Tom Cole and Roland Turner. The lead investigator was Detective Matt Underwood with the Douglasville Police Department. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams presided over the matter.

On April 24, 2020, the Douglasville Police Department responded to a call of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle. Upon arrival, they found the victim on the pavement severely injured and bleeding from a head injury. The vehicle involved was not on the scene when law enforcement arrived. Shortly after their arrival, a call came into 911 from the defendant, Ronika Carswell. She stated that her boyfriend had fallen off the hood of her vehicle as she turned onto the interstate. 911 advised her to return to the scene to speak with law enforcement and to give a statement.

During their investigation, law enforcement learned that the victim had jumped on the hood of Carswell's vehicle at the Quiktrip located on Chapel Hill Road during a dispute with the defendant in an attempt to prevent her from stranding him at the location. Carswell then proceeded to leave Quiktrip at a high rate of speed proceeding onto Chapel Hill Road with the victim still on the hood of the vehicle. The victim was clinging to the defendant's hood until she reached the ramp to I-20. Numerous witnesses stated the defendant jerked her vehicle sharply to the right causing the victim to fall off the vehicle. Carswell then continued down the ramp to I-20 and headed east towards Atlanta until she was told to turn around by law enforcement and return back to the scene.

The victim was transported to Grady, where he later died from his injuries.

District Attorney Dalia Racine stated, "This was a tragic situation and the senseless loss of a life. There were many opportunities to deescalate this event and instead the defendant chose the option that took a life. We appreciate the hard work of law enforcement in this investigation. We applaud the jury for seeing this incident and not allowing this type of behavior to be accepted in our community."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury returned a verdict convicting Ronika Carswell of felony murder and aggravated battery. Carswell faces a maximum punishment of life in prison. Sentencing will be at a later date.