

State of South Carolina



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SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

JUDGE SENTENCES MAN TO PRISON FOLLOWING GUILTY VERDICT IN SECOND FAILURE TO STOP CONVICTION

For Immediate Release
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Charleston, S.C.— Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that the Honorable J. Derham Cole, Jr. sentenced Michael Tyrus Jeter to one year in the South Carolina Department of Corrections following his conviction for Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, second offense. The Defendant was convicted by a Charleston County jury on January 7, 2025 following two days of testimony. Solicitor Wilson stated, “Officers of North Charleston Police Department handled this case beautifully from start to finish. Despite the defense’s baseless insinuations and allegations, they acted professionally throughout. Our roads are dangerous enough as they are without foolish criminals adding to the mix.”

Assistant Solicitors Tyra Roberts and Jordan Norvell presented the State’s case which included testimony from North Charleston Officers Troy Aratan and Hattie Perry. The Defendant was convicted of Failure to Stop for Blue Lights based on facts that occurred on December 30, 2023, when he was stopped for a tinted license plate cover. The Defendant initially stopped under the lights of a gas station on Ashley Phosphate at Cross County Road in North Charleston. He gave the police officers his driver’s license, but when Officer Perry asked him to step out of his vehicle, he chose to flee the scene. Both officers pursued the Defendant with lights and sirens activated, however, the Defendant refused to stop and drove away at speeds well over 118 mph to evade the officers. Officer Aratan ultimately cancelled the chase for public safety reasons when the Defendant’s speed caused him to lose sight of the Defendant’s vehicle. Fortunately, Officer Aratan still had possession of the Defendant’s license and registration to assist in the identification and subsequent arrest.

The Defendant had prior convictions for Failure to Stop for Blue Lights, first offense, Voluntary Manslaughter and several municipal driving infractions. At sentencing, the State asked for the maximum five-year sentence, in consideration of the Defendant’s prior convictions and Facebook posts where the Defendant shared amusement in fleeing from officers. The Court imposed a three-year sentence suspended to one year in the State Department of Corrections, followed by two years of probation.

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