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Man sentenced to 45 years for killing former Dallas city councilwoman, her daughter in car crash

A 38-year-old man was sentenced Friday to 45 years in prison for the deaths of former Dallas City Council member Carolyn Davis and her daughter.

Jonathan Alger Moore was under the influence of Ambien on July 15, 2019, when he drove into oncoming traffic and hit the car carrying 57-year-old Davis and 27-year-old Melissa Lashan Davis-Nunn.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of murder and was sentenced on both charges. The sentences will run concurrently.

Moore has a long history of driving while intoxicated and has four prior criminal convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, according to court records.

Prosecutor Lauren Black filed a motion to hold Moore's bond insufficient in December 2019 after he had two breath testing violations and didn't charge his electronic leg monitor. His bail was subsequently increased and he was re-arrested.

"He wasn't doing what he needed to do. If he was out on the streets, I was worried," said Black, the chief of the misdemeanor division in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

In July 2019, Moore was speeding in the eastbound lanes of Ledbetter Drive and crossed over the raised median into the westbound lanes. He did not attempt to use his brakes before the fatal crash.

His SUV hit Davis' car head on. A witness told authorities she heard Moore say he had fallen asleep at the wheel, police records show.

Moore had been released from probation for a prior driving while intoxicated case days before the fatal crash, according to court records.

"He had his chances multiple times. The court system gave Jonathan Moore plenty of time to get his act together," Black said.

The prosecutor said Moore's initial arrests were related to his alcohol consumption but, over time, he turned to other intoxicants to escape detection. His escalating behavior is the reason for his lengthy sentence, she said.

She said it's hard for the families of those killed by an intoxicated driver.

"I know how these types of crimes affect everyone. It's traumatic for who's left," Black said. "This has been a hard time for the Davis family."

Under Texas law, Moore is required to serve half of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.