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Havertown Woman Sentenced in Upper Darby Homicide by Vehicle While DUI Case

Media, PA - Racheal Jankins of the 200 block of Hastings Road, Havertown, PA today pled guilty to charges relating to the August 14, 2009 Homicide by Vehicle of Nicole Gallo, a nineteen year old resident of Clifton Heights, PA. On that date, Jankins was driving her vehicle on Lansdowne Avenue in Upper Darby Township when she lost control in the vicinity of Delaware County Memorial Hospital and struck Gallo and another female, nineteen year old Christine Bochanski. Subsequent investigation revealed that there was a can of "Dust Destroyer" compressed gas duster in Jankins's vehicle and chemical testing revealed that, at the time of the crash, Jankins was under the influence of difluoroethane, an ingredient in "Dust Destroyer".

Jankins pled guilty to the charges of Homicide by Vehicle While Driving Under the Influence of Controlled Substances, Aggravated Assault by Vehicle While Driving Under the Influence of Controlled Substances, and DUI. After accepting Jankins's plea and listening to statements by defense counsel and the defendant, the Commonwealth presented four witnesses who read victim impact statements to the Court. In accordance with the Commonwealth's recommendation, Judge Gregory Mallon sentenced Jankins to an aggregate term of incarceration of 4 ½ - 10 years in a State Correctional Institute to be followed by 6 years of state probation. Jankins was also ordered to pay several thousand dollars in restitution to the families of the victims.

"Today's proceeding represents the conclusion of the legal portion of this tragic case", said Delaware County District Attorney Mike Green. "Hopefully today's resolution brings some closure to both the Bochanski and Gallo families and everyone else who was affected by the tragic, sudden, and senseless death of Nicole Gallo", continued Green. "Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Gallo and Bochanski families during this exceedingly difficult time", concluded Green.

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