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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Teddrick Schaffer
Age: 22
City and State of residence: Brookings 30, 2016
Incident Date: March 12, 2016
Arrestment Hearing: June 27, 2016
Indictment Date: March 30, 2016
Change of Plea Date: July 11, 2016
Date of Sentencing: July 11, 2016
Convicted of: Ct. 3: Disorderly Conduct, 22-18-35, (M2)
Ct. 2: Driving with a Revoked License, (M1)
Arresting Officer: Deputy Stephanie Ryan – Union County Sheriff's Office
Defense Attorney: Tom Frieberg
Prosecution Attorney: Alexis Tracy

Case Synopsis:

On March 12, 2106, Teddrick Schaffer was on his way from his residence in Brookings's South Dakota to his parent's residence in Vermillion, SD. Schaffer was driving his parent's vehicle which stalled on him on Interstate 29. Schaffer, who was now stranded was without a phone. He stayed with his vehicle for a while in the dark with no one stopping to assist him. Schaffer decided to leave his vehicle and started to walk from somewhere near the Volin exit on Interstate 29 towards Vermillion. Schaffer estimates that he walked about two hours, sometimes in the rain, and without the benefit of a flashlight. Schaffer became concerned that someone would drift off the side of the road and hit him. Schaffer reported that at about this time he decided to throw rocks, sand, dirt, and / or gravel that he could find along the side of the road at the passing vehicles in an attempt to get one of the vehicle's occupants to use their cell phone to call law enforcement in the hopes that he would be rescued.

From the reports that were received by law enforcement and the damage that was done by Schaffer's ill advised act of throwing rock, sand, dirt and / or gravel at the passing vehicles the State maintains that such an act is inherently dangerous. The amount of damage done to the vehicles speaks to the tremendous amount of destructive force that even a small piece of debris can cause when it meets a vehicle traveling 80 mph. The act of throwing any object at a moving vehicle is inherently dangerous and shows a lack for the value of human life. At best, the act is negligent resulting in criminal liability at at worst, such an act has caused serious bodily injury and death under an intentional and knowing criminal culpability standard. Additionally, it is always advisable that a motorist who observes a person walking along side the road who is actively attempting to get someone's attention should take the time to call that person some assistance if they do not feel that it is prudent to stop and give aid.

This case was resolved with a misdemeanor for several reasons. First, Schaffer advised that one such victim did stop out of anger to address the fact that Schaffer was throwing road debris at the vehicles. Schaffer further reported that the driver of this vehicle apparently threatened Schaffer with his vehicle by driving strait at him while accelerating only to swerve at the last possible moment. Schaffer and / or his parents were able to support this information with evidence

at or near the scene of the incident. The second issue that resulted in a decision to settle this matter was the fact that there was very little investigation into this case. Schaffer and / or his parents had conducted a timely investigation into this matter; collected samples of the types of debris readily available in the area in which the incident had occurred. Another reason for the State's decision to exercise discretion was the fact that Schaffer never attempted to deceive law enforcement about his actions. And lastly, it is a goal of the criminal justice system to make the victims whole. In this case, due to assertions made, supported by the means to make good on the promise, and with the lack of criminal history, the State's Attorney's Office decided to settle this matter with a large restitution order and a guilty plea to the charge of a disorderly conduct.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Disorderly Conduct, Teddrick Schaffer received a suspended thirty-day sentence in the Union County Jail on the term and condition that Teddrick Schaffer pay all of his monetary obligations within thirty days of his sentencing (August 11, 2016). The court also ordered that Teddrick Schaffer pay the following: \$120.00 in Court Costs and Fines; \$350.00 in Restitution to one victim; \$1,432.25 in Restitution to American Family Insurance; \$1,048.54 in Restitution to another victim; \$2,896.00 in Restitution to another victim; \$222.60 in Restitution to another victim; \$347.15 in Restitution to another victim; and \$409.40 in court-appointed attorney fees.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This felony case was resolved with one misdemeanor charge and a plea agreement that Teddrick Schaffer would pay restitution to all the vehicles that reported having rocks, sand, dirt, and gravel thrown at them (see above restitution figures). Teddrick Schaffer does not have a felony record.