

OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Theodice Parks Sentenced to 25 Years for Causing the Death of Thomas Chase

Rochester, NY- On Friday, October 24, 2025, 18-year-old Theodice Parks was sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Richard Healy to 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 5 years of post-release supervision. Theodice Parks previously pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree in violation of NYS Penal Law 120.10(4) for driving a stolen Kia, and in furtherance of or flight from that felony offense, causing a serious physical injury that resulted in the death of 92-year-old Thomas Chase. 20-year-old Theophilus Parks was sentenced to 10 years in the New York State Department of Corrections. He previously pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, for his role in this offense.

On August 22, 2024, Rochester Police Officers responded to a call for a report of shots fired in the area of Clifford Avenue and Maria Street in the City of Rochester. Upon their arrival, they found a suspect matching the description of the person believed to be involved, 20-year-old Trevan Simmons. Simmons fled on foot, dropped an illegal firearm in a backyard, and jumped into the back of a stolen Kia, operated by 18-year-old Theodice Parks, with 20-year-old Theophilus Parks in the front passenger seat. As they fled, Theodice Parks, an unlicensed driver, almost struck a police officer with the stolen Kia, and then lead the Rochester Police Department on a pursuit at high speeds, at times going off road, weaving through traffic, and ignoring numerous traffic devices.

Theodice Parks only stopped when he collided with the vehicle of Thomas Chase who was making a proper left-hand turn from East Avenue to Elmwood Avenue in the Town of Brighton. The defendant was driving approximately 100 mph in a posted 40 mph speed zone. Mr. Chase was killed upon impact. At the scene of the violent crash, Rochester Police Officers apprehended Theodice Parks, Theophilus Parks, and Trevan Simmons with the assistance of the New York State Police and Brighton Police Department.

Theophilus Parks previously pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and Trevan Simmons pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the possession of the illegal firearm.

Trevan Simmons will be sentenced on December 10, 2025, also in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Richard Healy.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Merrick Sadler, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Diane Orosz-Roy, also of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

“At sentencing today, we heard about Thomas Chase from his family. Mr. Chase was a kind and thoughtful man whose life was stolen by reckless criminal behavior,” said Assistant District Attorney Merrick Sadler. “I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Chase family for their strength and steadfast support throughout this difficult year. Today’s sentence is a stark reminder of the real and devastating consequences of car theft and reckless driving. What some young people in our community may dismiss as an easy thrill, actually leaves real victims and destroys families. Theodice Parks will now spend the next 25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections. Let today serve as a reminder, behind every stolen vehicle or high-speed chase, there are real people, and real loss.”

“Today’s sentence delivers a measure of justice for Thomas Chase and his family,” said Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green. “This tragedy was not an accident, it was the inevitable result of reckless, criminal choices. At just 18 years old, Theodice Parks made decisions that cost an innocent man his life and shattered a family. Thomas Chase lived 92 years as a pillar of kindness, dignity, and community, only to have his life stolen in an instant. Nothing we do in this courtroom can undo that loss, but today’s sentence sends a clear message: when you endanger lives through violence, theft, and disregard for the law, you will be held accountable. Our community deserves better, and Mr. Chase deserved better.”

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