

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

August 4, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Theodice Parks Pleads Guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree for Causing the
Death of Thomas Chase**

Rochester, NY- On Monday, August 4, 2025, 18-year-old Theodice Parks 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.

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, while going 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.

Theodice Parks will be sentenced to a determinate sentenced between 20-25 years in the New York State Department of Corrections, as determined by Justice 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.

“Today’s plea brings a measure of resolution to the senseless death of Thomas Chase, 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. This case 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. Let today serve as a reminder, behind every stolen vehicle or high-speed chase, there are real people, and real loss.”

“At just 18, Theodice Parks has already made a series of choices that have entrenched him in the criminal justice system, a tragic contrast to 92-year-old Thomas Chase, who dedicated his life to uplifting his community,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “There was no reason for Theodice Parks to steal a car. No reason for Trevan Simmons to carry an illegal firearm. No reason to flee law enforcement. And above all, there was absolutely no reason Thomas Chase should have lost his life. His death was entirely preventable. I am grateful that today’s outcome offers the Chase family a sense of justice, even as they continue to grieve an irreplaceable loss.”

Theodice Parks and Theophilus Parks will be sentenced on October 24, 2025, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Healy.

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