Commonwealth of Virginia

County of Fairfax

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COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES USMAN SHAHID CONVICTED & SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS IN 2022 CRASH, DEATHS OF OAKTON HIGH STUDENTS

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced that earlier this week a jury convicted Usman Shahid, 20, on two counts of involuntary manslaughter for the 2022 crash that killed Ada Gabriela Martinez Nolasco, 14, and Leeyan Hanjia Yan, 15. Today, the jury sentenced him to 4 years.

Shortly before noon on June 7, 2022, Shahid was travelling south on Blake Lane at speeds significantly above the 35-mph speed limit when he collided with an SUV that was attempting to make a left turn onto Five Oaks Road. Shahid's vehicle then careened onto the sidewalk, striking and killing the two Oakton High School students and injuring a third as the girls walked home from school.

At trial, prosecutors proved that Shahid's high rate of speed and lack of evasive action to avoid the situation were responsible for both the initial crash and the subsequent pedestrian collision. A crash expert also testified that the vehicle Shahid was driving contained a data recorder indicating that Shahid continued to accelerate, from 60 mph to 81 mph, in the five seconds immediately preceding the crash as he approached the intersection. The data recorder also indicated that Shahid did not attempt to apply the brakes.

"This is one of the most tragic cases in Fairfax County's history," CA Descano said. "I have a daughter just a few months younger than Ada and Leeyan were – and I can't imagine how broken I would be in her absence. My heart breaks for the families, friends, and loved ones of these young girls. While there is nothing that can make up for such an immense loss, I hope that this conviction can help our community finally begin to heal from this tragedy."

The sentence will be finalized by a judge later this year. The judge has the power to lessen the sentence but cannot increase it.