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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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**Commonwealth v. Anthony Francis Spence
Judge Imposes Maximum Sentence for Drunk Driver in High-Speed Crash**

Colin D. Stolle, Commonwealth's Attorney for the city of Virginia Beach, announced that Anthony Francis Spence, age 37, of Winter Park, Florida, was sentenced today by Circuit Court Judge Les L. Lilley for Aggravated Involuntary Manslaughter. Judge Lilley sentenced Spence to the maximum sentence of twenty (20) years in prison and did not suspend any portion of the sentence.

Spence pled guilty on October 21, 2019. Had this matter gone to trial, the Commonwealth's evidence would have proven that at approximately 9:50 p.m. on June 3, 2018, Anthony Spence drove impaired and at a high rate of speed, causing a collision which killed the victim, Maria Grayson Fox. The victim was headed home after an evening spent with her family. Spence and his passenger left Shaka's, a bar at the Virginia Beach oceanfront, and traveled down Shore Drive to North Great Neck Road. Several witnesses described Spence's vehicle speeding past them and driving erratically, at estimated speeds of at least 80 m.p.h. Spence narrowly missed striking multiple vehicles. As the victim attempted to turn onto North Great Neck Road from River Road, Spence struck the driver's side of her vehicle at a high-rate of speed. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

A witness jogging in the area at the time of the crash immediately ran to the scene, attempted to render aid, and called 911. He observed Spence stagger out of the vehicle and crawl away from the scene on his hands and knees. He also saw the passenger exit the vehicle and walk down North Great Neck Road. A K-9 unit found Spence hiding in bushes at a house approximately sixty (60) yards from the scene. Blood evidence was collected from Spence at the hospital two hours after the crash. That blood sample was submitted to the state laboratory. Forensic analysis determined that Spence's blood had an ethanol serum level of 0.194. If converted into a more typical "whole blood" B.A.C, that number would be approximately 0.165. A toxicologist would have testified that extrapolating back to the time of the crash two hours prior, the actual BAC at the time of the crash would be as high as 0.205. The blood analysis also found trace amounts of Alprazolam (Xanax) and Amphetamine in the Spence's system.