



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
90 North Street, Canton GA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canton Man Pleads Guilty to Homicide by Vehicle, DUI, and Other Charges in 2025 Crash That Killed Cyclist on Sugar Pike Road *State vs. Lane William Keyes*

CANTON, GA (September 11, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on September 9 Lane William Keyes, 43, of Canton, entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to homicide by vehicle (5 counts), DUI (4 counts), reckless driving, driving on the wrong side of the road, and open container. At the conclusion of the plea hearing, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Keyes to 15 years, with the first 10 years to serve in prison.

Cherokee Sheriff's Office handled the investigation of this crash, which occurred on Sugar Pike Road at 5:48 p.m. on Sunday, October 19, 2025. On that day, the defendant drove his 2023 Rivian R1T truck at speeds exceeding 90 mph on Hickory Flat Highway and Sugar Pike Road, passing in no-passing zones and crossing the center line. While traveling northbound on Sugar Pike Road, he lost control of his vehicle and crossed the center line. His truck then traveled into the west shoulder and struck a cyclist riding southbound on the opposite side of the road.

Passers-by and first responders attempted lifesaving measures, but the cyclist, Carlos Moreno Gutierrez, 51, of Canton, succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was listed as generalized blunt force trauma.

After impact, the truck continued off the roadway, striking a fence, trees, and a retaining wall before coming to rest. At the scene, deputies observed signs that Keyes was impaired and found empty cans of alcoholic beverages around the wrecked Rivian. Keyes initially refused medical treatment. Nearly four hours after the crash, his blood alcohol level was measured at .115; the per se legal limit in Georgia is .08. His blood also tested positive for THC.

"This crash was no accident," said Assistant District Attorney Pete Lamb, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "There's nothing accidental about driving 50 miles per hour over the speed limit with alcohol and THC in your blood. This defendant's choices demonstrated a complete disregard for the lives of everyone on the road that day. Because of his actions, four children have lost their father, and the oldest has stepped into a parental role for her younger siblings."

Evidence from the Rivian's camera system documented reckless driving and excessive speeds on roads with a posted speed limit of 45 mph, including 99 mph on Hickory Flat Highway near Earney Road and 93 mph on Sugar Pike Road near the cemetery.

The court heard impact statements from the victim's family and a close friend. His four children described the devastating loss of losing their only remaining parent and their struggles navigating life without him. They also described their father's passion for cycling and his many cycling friends. A friend spoke of what a dedicated father Moreno Gutierrez was and how this crash was due to the decisions Keyes made that day.

“Carlos had every right to be on that lightly trafficked road that day, just like he did on many other occasions. The danger wasn’t the road, and it wasn’t him being on it. The danger was a man who knew exactly what he was doing was dangerous. This isn’t someone who never heard the warnings.... ‘Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk’ has been part of our American life since 1983, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been pushing that same message even longer. There is no version of growing up where he didn’t hear it, over and over, for essentially his entire life: driving drunk kills people. And that day, he got behind the wheel anyway...,” said the friend. “Each of those 12 charges represents a choice [the defendant] made that day, and every one of those choices led to Carlos being taken from his children. I’m asking this Court to impose the maximum sentence the law allows. Carlos Moreno spent his whole life showing up for the people he loved, quietly, without ever complaining, until someone else’s choice took that from him and from them. He deserves a sentence that reflects the full truth of what was taken.”

The State recommended a sentence of 15 years to serve in prison, which is the maximum allowed by Georgia law. The Defense asked for any confinement to be served in the probation detention center.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Baker sentenced Keyes to 15 years, with the first 10 years to be served in prison. He must pay restitution of \$14,870, perform 300 hours of community service, have no contact with the victim’s family, and complete substance abuse evaluation and treatment. Judge Baker also denied the Defense’s request for first offender status.

“Carlos Moreno was doing everything right – following the law, enjoying a sport he loved, and safely sharing the road. His life was taken because another driver chose recklessness, impairment, and speed,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Our thoughts are with his children, family, and everyone who loved him as they continue to navigate this profound loss.”

The case was investigated by Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Pete Lamb, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland
Public Information Officer
cbcrossland@cherokeecountyga.gov
770-479-1488