

## **JASON CHAMBERS, McLean County State's Attorney**



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May 25, 2018

PRESS RELEASE – Olivia Sonetz/Mitchel Mohr

On March 6, 2018 in the evening, at the intersection of Raab Road and U.S. Route 150 in McLean County, there was a traffic accident involving two vehicles driven by Olivia Sonetz and Mitchel Mohr. As a result of the accident, Ms. Sonetz suffered injuries which lead to her death.

There were witness statements taken by first responders almost immediately after the accident and tickets were issued based on those statements. Shortly after making the initial statements, witness were in contact with the investigating officer and modified their statement regarding who had a green or red light to a statement that they were not sure of what color the light was at the exact moment of the accident. Since that time the Illinois State Police have done a thorough investigation which has included an accident reconstruction.

Part of the accident reconstruction included video from a security camera which was distant and did not show much detail, but did provide evidence relating to the timing of lights and vehicle movement. The results of the accident reconstruction indicate that there is a probability that Mr. Mohr's vehicle entered the intersection on a yellow light, not in contravention of Illinois law. Conversely, there is then a substantial possibility that Ms. Sonetz's vehicle had entered the intersection on a red light before her car was struck.

Accident reconstruction has a margin for error, however, based on the final report from the Illinois State Police there is not sufficient evidence for the McLean County State's Attorney's Office to proceed with additional charges against Mr. Mohr. Illinois case law is clear that while speeding may be negligent, speeding alone is not considered "reckless" for the purposes of offenses such as Reckless Homicide. A ticket was issued to Mr. Mohr for the offense of speeding and the State's Attorney's Office does intend to proceed on that case.

Jason Chambers  
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