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For Immediate Release

North Liberty Man Sentenced to 5 Years for Serious Injury by Vehicle

October 21, 2025 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – On October 16, 2025, in Iowa District Court, Ta’Gian Hughes, of North Liberty, Iowa, was sentenced to 5 years in prison after pleading guilty to Serious Injury by Vehicle, a Class D Felony. Charges of Operating While Under the Influence – 2nd Offense, an Aggravated Misdemeanor, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Serious Injury, an Aggravated Misdemeanor, were dismissed per a plea agreement. An unrelated charge from April 2025 of Driving While License Denied/Revoked, a Serious Misdemeanor, was also dismissed per the plea agreement.

The 5-year sentence is the result of a November 2024 incident where Hughes struck a pedestrian who was crossing West Penn Street in North Liberty. The then 21-year-old male victim suffered serious, life-threatening injuries as a result of the incident.

At the sentencing on Thursday, the victim read an impact statement to the court, stating, “I spent 18 days in a coma and 49 days in the hospital and inpatient rehabilitation. The physical toll has been immense, but so have the emotional and financial burdens.” Expressing his deepest gratitude for the first responders who saved his life, his parents, friends, coworkers, and faith community; he ended by promising that he would not waste his second chance at life and looks forward to deciding how the rest of his life story is written.

-END-

Attached: Sentencing Order

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

52DOC

STATE OF IOWA, vs. TAGIAN DIMITRI HUGHES	06521 FECR145658 Count I CHANGE OF PLEA JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE
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The defendant appears by written plea, with the approval of counsel, and asks permission to withdraw the previously entered plea of not guilty for the purpose of entering a plea of guilty to the crime of **Serious Injury by Motor Vehicle - OWI in violation of Iowa Code Section 707.6A(4)**.

From an examination of the written plea, the Court finds it is voluntarily made with full knowledge of defendant's constitutional rights and of the potential penal consequences. From examining the trial information, the minutes of testimony, and the plea, the Court finds an adequate factual basis. Accordingly, the guilty plea is accepted by the Court and entered of record.

Defendant waives personal appearance at the time of sentencing and the right to file a motion in arrest of judgment and consents to the entry of immediate judgment and sentence. Accordingly,

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the Defendant is committed to the custody of the Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections for an indeterminate term not to exceed five years with credit being given for any time previously served on this charge. Defendant's term of incarceration may be reduced by as much as half of the maximum sentence because of statutory good conduct time, work credits, and program credits. The Defendant may be eligible for parole before the sentence is discharged.

The Defendant shall remain incarcerated to serve this sentence.

Financial obligations

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the defendant be sentenced to pay a fine in the amount of 1,025.00 (suspended) plus 15% crime services surcharge, court costs, attorney fees, and victim restitution, if any. If restitution is sought, the County Attorney shall file a Statement of Pecuniary Damages within 30 days. Defendant is granted 15 days after the filing of a Statement of Pecuniary Damages to file a written objection to restitution.

PAYMENT PLAN: Defendant shall pay amounts due in monthly installments of at least \$50.00 no later than the 15th day of each month beginning November 15, 2025, and continuing until paid in full. This finding is based upon a finding of indigency made by the Court prior to the date of sentencing or a motion and/or a financial affidavit filed prior to sentencing.

Payments may be made online at www.iowacourts.gov or through the Clerk of Court, Johnson County Courthouse, 417 South Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. The Court finds that community service will be prudent and effective for defendant; therefore, defendant may elect to pay some or all of the amounts due through the performance of community service at the minimum wage rate (currently \$7.25). If defendant elects to perform community service, he/she must provide proof of completion of 7 hours of community service per month per each \$50 owed.

NOTICE: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PAYMENT ORDER

Defendant is notified that if he/she fails to pay as ordered above within 30 days of the due date, action regarding his/her motor vehicle registration or suspension of his/her driver's license, or both, may be initiated and the total remaining court debt will be considered delinquent and sent to the Johnson County Attorney for collection.

A presentence investigation has been waived by the defendant; however, a post-sentencing investigation report shall be made by the 6th District Iowa Department of Corrections which shall be filed with the Johnson County Clerk.

Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 81.2, the defendant shall submit a DNA sample for DNA profiling within 60 days. Failure to timely submit a DNA sample may result in Contempt of Court proceedings pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 665.

Sentence is imposed pursuant to the plea agreement between the parties and/or any applicable mandatory sentencing requirements, and/or pursuant to the reasons stated on the record.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Counts II & III is/are dismissed, with costs assessed to the defendant.

Bond is exonerated. The Clerk shall allocate bond in accordance with authorization from the surety as set forth in the Authorization for Return of Cash Bond Following Arrest and Bond Information form, if any. If bond is currently subject to forfeiture, pending proceedings are cancelled.

Based upon the record, any updated financial information, and the authorization for a payment plan and community service, the Court finds that the defendant is reasonably able to pay Category B restitution (which may include filing fees, interpreter fees, service fees, court reporter fees, etc.) in the maximum amount of \$0.00 and court-appointed attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$0.00. In addition, the defendant is ordered to pay Category B restitution to public agencies and/or the Crime Victim Compensation Program pursuant to the Statement of Pecuniary Damages unless a hearing is requested on reasonable ability to pay.

If counsel is court-appointed, the attorney and/or the attorney's office is withdrawn from representation in this matter upon satisfaction of the requirements of Iowa R. Crim. P. 2.30(1) without further order of the Court. To be removed from EDMS indexing, counsel should file a notice of withdrawal pursuant to Iowa R. Elec. P. 16.315(1)(d) and 16.318.

Any open warrants are recalled.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

The defendant is advised of the right to appeal this judgment and sentence. An appeal must be filed with the Clerk of Court in writing within 30 days from the date of this order. If a notice of appeal is not timely filed, the right to appeal is waived. Defendant may qualify for court-appointed counsel and transcripts at State expense. Bond on appeal is set in the amount of \$10,000.00.



State of Iowa Courts

Case Number
FECR145658
Type:

Case Title
STATE OF IOWA VS HUGHES, TAGIAN DIMITRI
Order for PSI

So Ordered

Brandon Schrock, District Associate Judge,
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2025-10-16 14:56:24