



## Top Stories

### Emotional plea for woman who killed pedestrian 5:07 PM **Video**

05:07 PM EDT on Thursday, October 11, 2007

By NATALIE DICK / WCNC

E-mail Natalie: [ndick@WCNC.com](mailto:ndick@WCNC.com)



**Video** Victim's family grateful for plea

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Deborah Chisholm-Peterson and her family wear badges on their lapels as a way to remind others of the tragic consequences drinking and driving can bring.

Their loved one -- David "Ray" Chisholm, a well-known street artist in Charlotte -- was hit and killed by a drunk driver while crossing South Boulevard nearly a year ago. He died just a few days after his 60th birthday.

The driver who hit him, 22-year-old Aren McCoy pled guilty to felony death by vehicle in Mecklenburg County Court Thursday morning.

A young woman who'd never been in trouble before, McCoy sobbed and held her attorney's hand as she publicly apologized to Chisholm's family.

"It just lets you know that when you drink and drive, even when you think you are OK, someone could die," said her attorney Charles Alston. "There's nothing she could have done besides not drive that day to bring that person back. That's something she's going to have to live with the rest of her life and that's something she's dealing with."

Chisholm-Peterson said she's glad to know that McCoy pled guilty.

"I have released everything and I forgive her," Chisholm-Peterson said. "And I can move on with my

life and continue to live my brother's legacy."

That legacy is Chisholm's love for painting. Family members say he chose to live on the streets, ministering to others through his artwork.

"He made a choice to be homeless," Chisholm's niece Tamika Chisholm told WCNC. "But if he hadn't, he wouldn't have been able to touch so many people's lives."

As the anniversary of his death approaches, two families find themselves intertwined in tragedy. Both are now promising to share the painful message.

"I do feel like David would be satisfied with what happened here today," Chisholm-Peterson said as she walked hand in hand with her family as they left court.

As part of her plea agreement, McCoy will serve 45 days split sentence, reporting to the Mecklenburg County Jail on weekends.

Following her time served, she'll be on probation for 36 months as well as pay Chisholm's family \$5,000 restitution to cover his funeral expenses.

She must also complete 50 hours of community service.