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For Immediate Release

August 12, 2026

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Teen Pleads Guilty in E-bike Crash

This morning, Camren Isaiah Creme, age 19 of Wilmington, pled guilty to Assault Inflicting Serious Injury, a Class A1 misdemeanor, before Judge R. Kent Harrell. Creme was sentenced to a 60-day suspended sentence, 18 months of supervised probation, and 500 hours of community service, for which he already completed 334 hours before the plea. Additionally, Creme will complete an eight-hour course with Street Safe, a driver education program for young drivers, and will become a presenter regarding the importance of e-bike safety so his peers can learn from his situation. Finally, Creme must submit to a substance abuse evaluation and comply with any recommended treatment stemming from that evaluation.

On April 2, 2025, Creme was operating an e-bike in Smith Creek Park in the northern part of New Hanover County. There are signs posted at Smith Creek Park that prohibit motorized vehicles in the park, which is heavily used by pedestrians and bicycles, as was the case this day. The five-year-old victim was at the park learning to ride his scooter and wearing a helmet and other protective gear on the two-way circular path. Moments prior to being struck by Creme, the child was walking his scooter and tried to avoid the e-bike. Creme reported to law enforcement that he, too, tried to avoid the collision, but his foot became lodged between the brake and the ground. The e-bike, which was estimated to be traveling between 25 and 30 miles per hour, hit the child, sending him approximately 20-30 feet from the place of impact.

When law enforcement arrived on scene aid was being rendered to the child, who was ultimately transported with significant injuries about his body. Creme, who remained on scene and participated with law enforcement's investigation, broke his foot in multiple places. Laboratory tests ultimately revealed THC in the defendant's blood.

"My office regards this negotiated plea as a teachable moment, both for this defendant and for others who operated e-bikes in this District: Actions have consequences," said District Attorney Jason W. Smith. "When a person hurts another person, especially a child, there will be legal consequences. While this plea arrangement is not appropriate in every case, this office and the victim's family felt that the defendant could be held accountable without making him a convicted felon."