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Walker Pleads Guilty in Death by Distribution Case

On January 14, 2026, Michael Lawrence Walker, Jr., age 33, plead guilty to Death by Distribution and Possession with Intent Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance. Senior Resident Superior Court Judge R. Kent Harrell sentenced Walker to 83-112 months in prison, followed by 8-19 months, suspended, with supervised probation for two years. Walker is required to enroll and complete drug treatment during his term of supervision.

On May 7, 2023, deputies with the New Hanover Sheriff's Office responded to 4518 Tesla Park Drive, apartment 307, regarding a suspected overdose. When deputies arrived, they found Hannah Holt unresponsive on the floor next to the sofa. First responders attempted life saving measures on Ms. Holt, but she was pronounced deceased. On scene, detectives located empty wax baggies that are commonly used to package fentanyl, stamped "Longmire" in a bag belonging to Ms. Holt. Also found were straws with white residue that tested positive for fentanyl.

Law enforcement seized Ms. Holt's cell phone and extracted the contents. Detectives located numerous text messages between Holt and defendant, where Walker agreed to sell and deliver the narcotics to Holt the night of the overdose.

Detectives located video from a doorbell camera from a neighboring apartment that showed Walker arriving at the apartment at approximately 12:16 a.m. on May 7, 2023, and then leaving the apartment at approximately 12:27 a.m. Text messages on Ms. Holt's phone also showed that Walker told Ms. Holt, "please be easy o[n] the bags" at 12:45 a.m. after he departed the apartment.

Cell phone records revealed the defendant attempted to contact Ms. Holt numerous times throughout the early morning hours on May 7, 2023, with no response from Ms. Holt. The doorbell video footage showed Walker returned to the apartment at approximately 5:44 a.m. and fleeing the apartment at approximately 6:47 a.m. after learning Ms. Holt had overdosed.

An autopsy performed on Holt determined her death was caused by fentanyl toxicity.

"Defendants who contribute to the death of another individual by dealing poison in our community will be held accountable," said District Attorney Jason W. Smith.



Michael Walker