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**Press Release**

## **Manslaughter conviction for Striking, killing pregnant woman**

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A 47-year old Sharon woman will spend 5 years in custody following her conviction for Motor Vehicle Manslaughter – striking and killing a pregnant woman on a Stoughton Street in July of 2013, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

“The jury came back at about 11 a.m. on November 19, 2014, finding Karen Blau guilty of the manslaughter charge and of reckless endangerment of a child,” District Attorney Morrissey said.

“We asked the court to sentence Blau to state prison for a term of 10 to 12 years, followed by 15 years of probation supervision starting from the date of her release,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Judge Kenneth J. Fishman passed sentence of 5 years to 5 years and one day on the Motor Vehicle Manslaughter, followed by 8 years of probation supervision on the additional conviction of Reckless Endangerment of a Child.”

“Joanne White was just walking on the sidewalk beside Lincoln Street with her 11-year-old son when Karen Blau’s car came barreling up on the sidewalk. One of her last acts was yelling to her son to run to safety. He was not injured, but she did not survive,” Morrissey said. “We offer our sincere condolences to Ms. White’s family.”

The District Attorney praised the investigation by Stoughton and Massachusetts State Police, assisted by members of his motor vehicle homicide unit. “Motor vehicle manslaughter convictions are more difficult to secure than motor vehicle homicide. We depend on our police partners to put strong cases together. Assistant District Attorneys Adam Lally and Matthew Friedel did good work presenting the evidence to this jury,” Morrissey said.