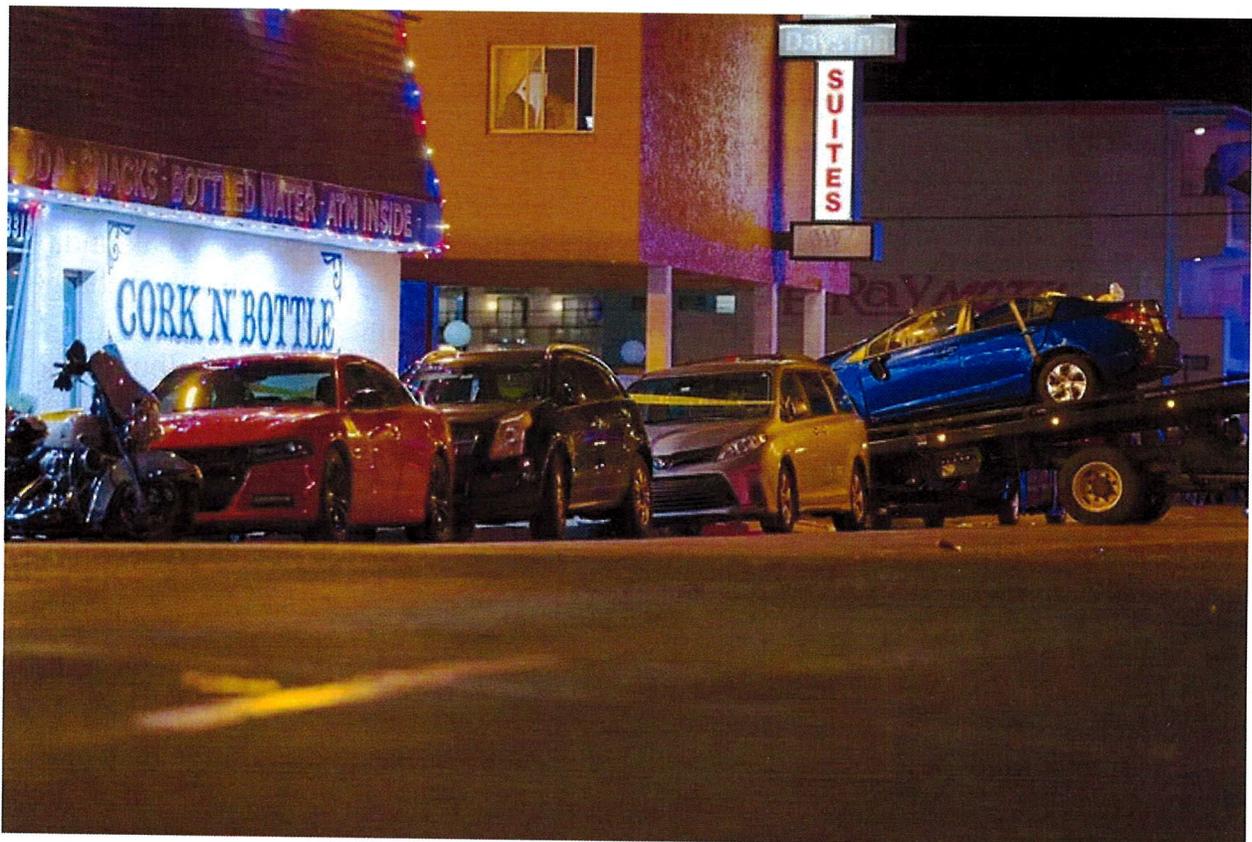


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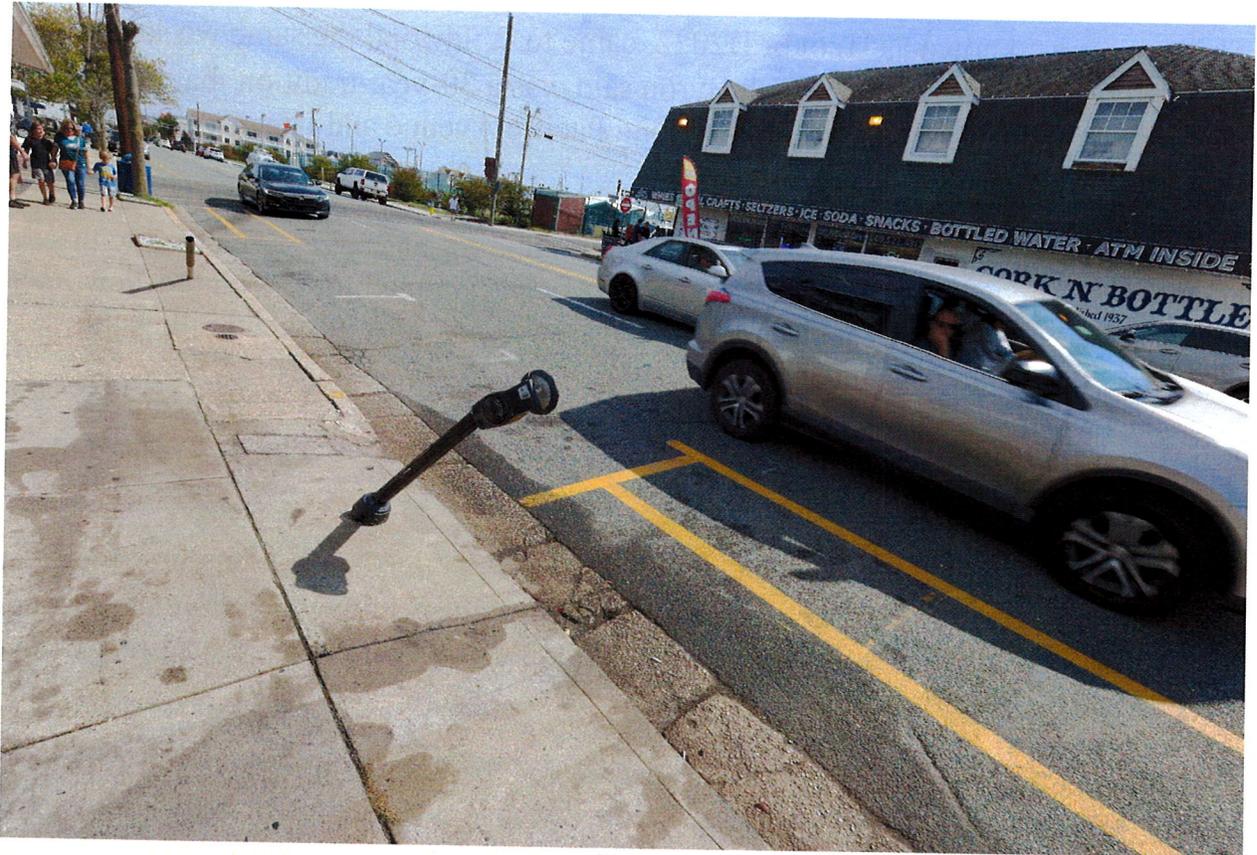
Man charged in two deaths after he crashed his car into an intersection in unsanctioned Wildwood drag race

Police charged Gerald J. White, 37, of Pittsburgh with two counts of death by auto and two counts of assault by auto, in the death of Lindsay Weakland, 18, and Timothy Ogden, 34.



A blue Honda is loaded onto a flatbed tow truck in Wildwood, N.J., late Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. Authorities say at least two people were killed at a pop-up car rally. Dave Hernandez | For NJ Advance

by [Jake Blumgart](#)



Bent parking meters are seen in front of Bagel Time Cafe in Wildwood, N.J., where an accident occurred the night before. At least two people were killed Saturday night during a pop-up car rally. Tim Hawk | NJ Advance Media for

According to a news release from the prosecutor's office, police officers were called to the intersection of Burk and Atlantic Avenues after a report of a multi-vehicle crash involving pedestrians around 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

White was driving a 2003 Nissan Infiniti when he first struck a 2014 Honda Civic, and then hit two pedestrians. Weakland, a pedestrian, died at the intersection. Ogden, a passenger in the Honda, died at the Atlantic City Medical Center as a result of his injuries. Police apprehended White after he attempted to flee the scene. No information about any injuries to the other pedestrian were released by police Sunday.

Authorities were aware of this weekend's planned roadway festivities, and the city's commissioners released a Sept. 21 statement warning against reckless driving.

"The Board of Commissioners emphasizes that all visitors to the Wildwoods are welcome and are expected to obey all ordinances and laws during their visit," the statement read.

“Not everyone that went to Wildwood for H2Oi was there to cause havoc,” said Keller. “It’s quite sad that everyone attending the event this weekend will be umbrellaed into the same group of people that caused this tragedy.”

Keller said that there is now discussion among members of the Facebook group about creating a sanctioned version of the meet-ups with safeguards to protect the public.

“The H2Oi group took a huge hit with what occurred and a lot of discussions will need to be had if there will ever be a chance to recover from this,” said Keller. “It will need to be sanctioned and a place will need to be acquired for the reckless people to do the dumb stuff safely.”

Dangerous driving and road deaths have surged since 2020 across the United States, part of a [trend of reckless and uncivil behavior](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [released data](#) showing that 20,175 people died in car crashes in the first half of 2022, a 0.5% increase from the first half of 2021.

The federal government reported, however, that the period between April and June saw the first decline in fatalities after seven consecutive quarters of increasing carnage, which started in 2020.