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Edition: HOME
Section: COASTAL EMPIRE
Page: 4C

Topics:

Index Terms:

ACCIDENT PEDESTRIAN POLICE
SAVANNAH OFFICER CLEARED IN FATAL PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT

Author: Savannah Morning News

Article Text:

Authorities have cleared a Savannah police officer who accidentally hit and killed a pedestrian while driving on West Bay Street last month.

Officer Raphael Hall returned to work Friday after being on paid administrative leave since the Sept. 22 accident near Carolan and Kirkland streets, police spokesman Bucky Burnsed said. Savannah traffic officers conducted an investigation and determined Hall was not at fault and could not avoid the accident, Burnsed said. Hall's blood-alcohol tests were negative, Burnsed said.

Hall's marked police car hit Robert "Bobby" Heyward, 47, after Heyward crossed into the path of the police car, police said.

The officer was driving west on the slick road, headed to a back-up call in the area. His siren and emergency lights were not activated, police said.

Heyward was crossing the street on his bicycle from the north side near Chu's Supermarket, Burnsed said.

Heyward was taken to Memorial Health University Medical Center, where he later died. The officer was not injured.

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