

## **Detroit officer sent to prison for drunken-driving death - Suspended lieutenant gets nine to 15 years for the fatal 2004 accident when he was off duty.**

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**DETROIT** -- A suspended **Detroit** police lieutenant was sentenced Tuesday **to** nine **to** 15 years in **prison for** killing a 20-year-old man in a traffic accident while driving drunk.

Wayne Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin sentenced James Agee, 58, who had been a police **officer for** 18 years, **to** the term under an agreement in which Agee pleaded guilty **to** second-degree murder and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, said Maria Miller, a Wayne County assistant prosecutor.

The accident occurred June 19 while Agee was off duty and in his own vehicle.

Agee was driving the wrong way -- westbound in the eastbound lanes -- of East Warren when his sport utility vehicle collided head-on at Burns with an eastbound car driven by Nehemiah Thompson, court records said. Thompson had just turned left off Burns onto East Warren.

When **officers** arrived at the accident, they found a partly filled pint bottle of cognac in Agee's vehicle; **officers** said it appeared he had been drinking, court records said. A test showed his blood-alcohol level at the time of the accident was 0.23, almost three times the legal limit of 0.08, the court records said.

He was suspended without pay by the Police Department after he was charged in the case.

He is expected **to** be officially dismissed by the department this week.

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