*The document the participant receives (which appears immediately after the crime does or does not occur) should say something to the effect of Summons for Initial Appearance (not trial date)…*

*After the document is presented, the participant’s avatar will appear in Court before a judge and a prosecutor.*

PROSECUTOR (talking to the judge): First name of participant is accused of being involved in a hit-and-run occurring around 6PM on the 11th day of January in the year 2017.

In accordance with state law, a hit-and-run occurs when the operator of a motor vehicle damage’s public or private property, and the operator fails to report it.

According to the information provided in the police report, there was property damage exceeding $1,000, which resulted from a collision in a store parking lot. The victim’s car was legally parked within the lines of the space. There is security footage provided by the owner of the business where the accident occurred that shows a car with a plate number registered to first name of participant appearing to come in contact with the victim’s car.

*Grainy security footage shows the avatar’s car pull out of the parking lot in such close proximity to the victim’s car that the two could have had contact as the car was backing up.*

Although the impact might look minor, according to a quote from the victim’s auto body repair shop, the damage to the body was significant. Thus, according to statute, failure of first name of participant to stop and check the status of the other vehicle constitutes a hit-and-run.

PROSECUTOR: The security footage shows first name of participant’s car striking a vehicle and then failing to check for or report damages. This is a textbook hit and run, which is considered a serious misdemeanor punishable by significant fines and/or time in jail. We request a court date be set by the State as soon as it is possible. In the mean time, we request first name of participant be held until a time that bail can be set and paid.

JUDGE: First name of participant, you are being charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage. Because you have no prior offenses, this crime carries a minimum charge of 2 weeks in jail and a maximum charge of 12 months in jail as well as a fine ranging from $20 to $200 in addition to court fees as well as covering the property damage incurred in the accident.

You have:

The right to request the appointment of counsel if you cannot afford counsel

The right to not make a statement

The right to a jury trial, judgment, and sentencing before a district judge

At this time you are remanded to a holding cell where you will await a bail hearing, which will occur within the next 48 hours—at that hearing, a bond will be assessed for conditional bail.

It is so ordered.

*Participant avatar is led out of the courtroom by a uniformed officer and transported to prison or is flashed to a prison cell.*

*While in transit or after being flashed to prison, the flashback sequence occurs.*

*After the flashback, the participant’s avatar will be shown sitting in prison and will then be told s/he has a visitor.*

*The participant avatar appears in a room approaching the prosecutor (the same prosecutor from the arraignment) who is already seated at a table.*

PROSECUTOR: Hello again, first name of participant.

We are currently working on a court date, but I would like to see whether we could resolve this at the bail hearing without a trial. Based on the security camera footage and the damage to the victim’s car, I am confident that I would win this case if it progress to a trial. If I take this to court, I will be seeking the maximum penalty of 1 year in prison and $200 in fines plus court costs.

If you plead guilty now, saving myself and the State the resources needed for a formal trial, I am prepared to recommend that the judge sentence you to 6 months of probation rather than 1 year in prison. I will also recommend that the fines be charged at the minimum of $20 plus court costs, though in either case, you will still have to cover the cost of damages to the victim’s car not covered by your insurance.

PROSECUTOR: If you accept this plea arrangement, you will need to sign this form, which includes the recommendations I just described. Note that this is your only way of avoiding any jail time. If I am forced to take this case to trial, I will pursue the maximum jail sentence of 1 year.

Your signature will indicate your agreement to plea guilty and forgo your right to a trial.

*Response boxes or options appear asking the participant to submit his/her response:*

*Plead guilty in exchange for a lower sentence (6 months probation and $20 in fines)*

*Reject the offer and risk a more severe sentence if found guilty at trial (1 year in prison and $200 in fines)*

*After this response, they will be re-directed to one of two Qualtrics surveys depending on their response to this question.*