



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Found Guilty in Connection with Fentanyl Death**

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, June 16, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County jury has found Kevin Ecker, 30, of Baughman Street in Akron, guilty on all 13 counts in connection with the drug related death of 20-year-old Jessica Canada Holmes, as well as other drug offenses. Holmes died after taking fentanyl she purchased from Ecker.

In addition to Involuntary Manslaughter, a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, jurors found Ecker guilty of:

- Corrupting Another with Drugs – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Fentanyl) – felonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Methamphetamine) – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Fentanyl) – a felony of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Trafficking in Marijuana – felonies of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree
- Aggravated Possession of Drugs (Methamphetamine) – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Possession of Drugs (Fentanyl) – a felony of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree
- Possession of Cocaine – a felony of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Possession of Drugs – felonies of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree

On March 22, 2015, Holmes purchased what she thought was heroin. Holmes was later found dead in her Kenmore Avenue home. The Summit County Medical Examiner determined Holmes died after ingesting Fentanyl and not heroin. Investigators traced the drug back to Ecker.

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The other guilty verdicts are related to multiple incidents involving Mr. Ecker from March of 2015 and February of 2016.

Visiting Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Judith Hunter is scheduled to sentence Ecker on Friday, July 22, 2016 at 9am.

This is the first involuntary manslaughter case in Summit County involving heroin or fentanyl to be decided by a jury trial. Since 2013, 22 defendants in Summit County Common Pleas Court have been convicted of involuntary manslaughter charges connected to heroin or fentanyl deaths.