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Akron Man Found Guilty in Murder of Cuyahoga Falls Woman

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, March 26, 2019) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Kelly McLaughlin found Marcus Coker, 36, of North Howard Street in Akron, guilty of several charges, including the 2017 murder of 29-year-old Ashley Williams.

Coker pled no contest to the indictments from two separate cases from 2017. Judge McLaughlin found Coker guilty of the following charges from case# 2017-10-3502, which involved an incident on September 20, 2017:

- Aggravated Burglary with a Repeat Violent Offender Specification - a felony of the 1st degree
- Robbery with a Repeat Violent Offender Specification – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Disrupting Public Services – a felony of the 4th degree
- Domestic Violence – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

Judge McLaughlin also found Coker guilty of the following charges from case# 2017-11-3922, which involved an incident on September 22, 2017:

- Aggravated Murder with a Repeat Violent Offender Specification – a special felony
- Three Counts of Murder with Repeat Violent Offender Specifications – special felonies

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- Two Counts of Kidnapping with Repeat Violent Offender Specifications – felonies of the 1st degree
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault with Repeat Violent Offender Specifications – felonies of the 2nd degree
- Failure to Comply – a felony of the 3rd degree

On September 20, 2017, Marcus Coker broke into an Akron home and assaulted the resident of the home, who was an ex-girlfriend of Coker's. Two days later, Coker strangled and stabbed another woman, Ashley Williams, to death in Williams' Cuyahoga Falls apartment. Coker then led police on a high speed chase into Akron before crashing in the area of Arnold Avenue near Eastland Avenue in Akron. At the end of the chase, an Akron police officer shot at Coker, grazing Coker in the head.

Judge McLaughlin is scheduled to sentence Coker on June 28, 2019 at 1pm.