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Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Murder of Cuyahoga Falls Woman

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, June 28, 2019) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Kelly McLaughlin sentenced Marcus Coker, 36, of North Howard Street in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for the 2017 murder of 29-year-old Ashley Williams.

Coker will be eligible for parole after serving 36 years of his sentence.

“Ashley Williams was a beloved mother, daughter, and friend. Her death will deeply impact the community for years. She will truly be missed,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Marcus Coker is violent criminal and deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison. The community is safer with Mr. Coker locked up.”

On March 26, 2019, 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 - a felony of the 1st degree
- Robbery – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Disrupting Public Services – a felony of the 4th degree
- Domestic Violence – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

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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
- 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 Coker's 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.