



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Sentenced to Mandatory 8 Years in Prison for Deadly Drunk Driving Crash**

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, October 03, 2019) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Tammy O'Brien sentenced Sean Blackburn, 34, of Sumatra Avenue in Akron, to eight years in prison for causing a deadly crash which killed 21-year-old Thomas Leslein and severely injured two others. Blackburn must serve the entire eight year prison sentence.

On September 7, 2019 Blackburn pled guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault – felonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence – a misdemeanor of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree

“Sean Blackburn’s decision to drive drunk not only lead to Tommy Leslein’s death, but caused a lifetime of pain and suffering for Tommy’s family. This is another stark reminder of why people should not get behind the wheel if they’ve had alcohol,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Two others were seriously injured and although their physical injuries have healed, they will have to deal with the emotional impact of what happened for the rest of their life.”

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On April 7, 2018, Sean Blackburn was driving drunk when he went left of center on the Main Street Bridge at Howard Street and North Main Street in Akron and crashed into a car occupied by Thomas Leslein and his cousin, 21-year-old Matthew Leslein. The Leslein's were heading home and had called an UBER. 39-year-old John Ware was the UBER driver and had picked up the Lesleins. Both Ware and Matthew Leslein suffered significant injuries in the crash, including several broken bones, a lacerated spleen, and head injuries.