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Summit County Prosecutor Dismisses Charges Against Tyree Feaster

Lack of witness cooperation renders prosecution impossible

AKRON, OHIO – February 16, 2012 – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today <u>dismissed charges</u> against Tyree Feaster in the 2007 shooting death of ShawRica Lester outside the Cage nightclub. On January 18, 2012, the Supreme Court of Ohio ordered the case be retried because of a procedural error when Feaster was sentenced after pleading guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter, Felonious Assault with a firearm specification, Participating in a Criminal Gang with a firearm specification and Aggravated Rioting with a firearm specification.

"We are prohibited from using Tyree Feaster's own admission of guilt in a new trial, and none of our original witnesses are willing to truthfully tell the Court what happened the night ShawRica Lester was killed. Without witnesses, we do not have a strong enough case against Feaster," said Prosecutor Walsh. "The lack of witness cooperation means ShawRica and her family will not see the justice they deserve."

"There is no statute of limitation on murder and my office is continuing to investigate leads," said Prosecutor Walsh. "Because we dismissed without prejudice, we can refile the charges if witnesses choose to come forward in the future."

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Note to editors: You can read the entire motion on our website.