



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
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Streetsboro Man Found Guilty of Murdering Akron Man Following Dispute Over Dirt Bike

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, April 10, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County jury found William Knight, 64, of Lady Catherine Street in Streetsboro, guilty of murder in the death of 24-year-old Keith Johnson.

Jurors found Knight guilty of the following charges:

- Two Counts of Murder, each with a Gun Specification – both Special Felonies
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault, each with a Gun Specification – felonies of the 2nd degree

In the evening of March 20, 2017, William Knight shot and killed Keith Johnson. The shooting followed a dispute over a stolen dirt bike. Earlier that day, Knight's son-in-law noticed his dirt bike, which had been stolen in February of 2016, was for sale on a social media site. Knight, his daughter and son-in-law went to Danmead Avenue in Akron to confront Keith Johnson and recover the dirt bike. When Johnson attempted to leave the area on the bike, the son-in-law grabbed the dirt bike in an attempt to stop Johnson. Johnson was able to pull away from the son-in-law, but was subsequently shot in the head by Knight. The jury rejected arguments by William Knight's attorney that Knight was acting in self-defense and defense of his family members.

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Tammy O'Brien is scheduled to sentence Knight on Monday April 23, 2018 at 9am. Knight faces a potential sentence of life in prison.