



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT: Lisa Holdt

Phone: (330) 643-2796

holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

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Parole Denied for 1975 Akron Murder

AKRON, Ohio (September 19, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, the Ohio Parole Board denied a request by inmate David Brown-Harris for parole to be granted. Brown-Harris was represented by the Ohio Public Defender.

In 1975, 26-year-old Michael Brewer and his brother gave a ride to David Brown-Harris and a female. Brown-Harris pulled a gun and told Brewer to get out of the driver's seat. When Brewer refused to let Brown-Harris steal the car Brown-Harris shot him in the chest, pulled him out of the car and drove away. Michael Brewer died four days later from his injuries. In February of 1976, Brown-Harris pled guilty to Murder and Aggravated Robbery and was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

In 1990, Brown-Harris was granted parole. He was subsequently returned to and released from prison two times for parole violations, forgery and burglary. In 2009, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office convicted him of Felonious Assault for beating his brother with a table leg. Brown-Harris was returned to prison that year for a three year sentence. The 2009 crime was also a parole violation to the original 1975 15 year to life sentence.

This past July, the Ohio Parole Board made a preliminary determination to release Brown-Harris pending a hearing conducted by the full Ohio Parole Board. Prosecutor Walsh opposed his release advising the Board of Brown-Harris' criminal history and history of violence along with the opposition to parole from the family of Michael Brewer. The Parole Board denied Brown-Harris' release and continued his prison commitment. The Board found him to be unsuitable for release. He will next be eligible for parole in September of 2021.