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Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Driving Van into Two Men, Killing One

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, February 25, 2020) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Daniel Shmigal, 28, of McIntosh Avenue in Akron, was sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for driving a van into two people, killing one and seriously injuring the other.

Shmigal will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years in prison.

On February 19, 2020, Shmigal pled guilty to the following charges:

- Murder – a Special Felony
- Aggravated Vehicular Assault – a felony of the 2nd degree

On March 17, 2019, Daniel Shmigal was driving a 2002 minivan when he purposefully struck Derek Smith and Charles Holden, who were walking on the sidewalk near the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Barbara Avenue in Akron's Firestone Park neighborhood. Holden, 34, of Wooster, died about a month later. Smith, 29, of Akron, suffered serious injuries.

Prior to the incident, Shmigal had been arguing with his wife about Derek Smith, who is a friend of Shmigal's wife.

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“The death of Charles Holden leaves a hole his family will have to deal with the rest of their lives. Charles was a husband, son, friend, and mentor who worked hard to provide for his family. The pain of his loss will be felt for years,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I’m pleased to know Daniel Shmigal took responsibility for his actions and will spend a significant amount of time in prison.”