



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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## Convicted Murderer Denied Parole

*Robert Penn Shot & Killed Roland Bivins in 1994*

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, July 8, 2021) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Ohio Parole Board, by a vote of 7-3, denied parole for convicted murderer Robert Penn. Penn will not be eligible again for parole until July 1, 2025.

In 1994, Penn shot and killed 29-year-old Roland Bivins after the two got into an argument following a card game at a home on Mallison Avenue in Akron. After the argument, Penn went outside where he hid in a vehicle and fired several shots at Bivins, killing him. Penn also threatened to kill witnesses. Penn eventually pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON with parole eligibility after serving 18 years. Penn was first denied parole in 2012 and again in 2017.

During Wednesday's Parole Board hearing, Summit County Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer argued to keep Penn in prison. Nemer said "he (Penn) has a history of not taking responsibility for his actions. He killed one person in cold blood and threatened the lives of others. There are too many instances showing Penn has a complete disregard for the rules and that he lacks self-control and should not be released from prison."

Nemer continued, "...the nature of Penn's crime, his continued disregard for rules, and his lack of judgement are deserving of a long prison sentence. If he remains in prison, no one else will have to suffer the way Roland Bivins and his family has suffered."