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Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Canton Teen Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, May 3, 2022) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Joy Oldfield sentenced Lavontae Poole, 19, of Stella Circle in Canton, to LIFE IN PRISON for a 2019 shooting which left one person dead and three others injured.

Poole will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years of his sentence. Prosecutors requested the maximum sentence which would have parole eligibility after 26 years.

On April 26, 2022 Judge Oldfield found Poole guilty of the following charges:

- Murder – a Special Felony
- Aggravated Burglary – a Felony of the 1st Degree

On June 26, 2019, at around 5:30pm, Lavontae Poole and two others went to a home on Rowe Street in Akron with the intent to rob the occupants and steal marijuana. As two more people waited outside, Poole and the other two began shooting. 34-year-old Brandon Varner was shot eight times and died. 39-year-old Terica Poole (no relation to Lavontae) was shot in the leg and survived. 24-year-old Marquis Locket was shot eight times and survived. A 12-year-old boy was also shot and survived.

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Poole was arrested at a nearby home. In the home investigators found guns which matched shell casings found at the scene. Poole's DNA was on one of the guns.

One of Poole's co-defendants, 20-year-old Marquis Felder, of Morningview Avenue in Akron, is currently serving a LIFE SENTENCE with parole eligibility after 28 years. On September 9, 2021, Felder pled guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Burglary with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st degree
- Attempted Murder with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault with Gun Specifications – Felonies of the 2nd Degree

28-year-old Jimmy Foster, of Clearview Drive in Akron, who remained outside the home on Rowe Street when the four people were shot, is scheduled to be sentenced May 31, 2022, after pleading guilty on February 16, 2022, to the following charges:

- Aggravated Burglary with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Obstructing Justice – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

Martino Livingston, 35, of Hardesty Boulevard in Akron, who remained outside the home on Rowe Street during the incident, pled guilty on March 15, 2022 to the following charges:

- Robbery – a Felony of the 2nd Degree
- Obstructing Justice – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

Judge Oldfield is scheduled to sentence Livingston on May 31, 2022.

The fifth co-defendant, 20-year-old Zaveon Carter of Biruta Street in Akron, is scheduled to go on trial in June.