SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, October 11, 2022) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Christine Croce sentenced Nelson Becton, 42, of Elma Street in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for the murder of 25-year-old Jaison Ragsdale.

Becton must serve 21 years in prison before being eligible for parole.

On October 7, 2022, a Summit County jury found Becton guilty of the following charges:

- Murder with a Gun Specification – a Special Felony
- Felonious Assault with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st degree
- Having a Weapon Under Disability – a Felony of the 3rd degree
- Tampering with Evidence – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

In October of 2020 a large fight broke out at the Corner Pocket Bar on Upson Street in Akron. As the fight was breaking up, Becton shot and killed Jaison Ragsdale at point blank range for no apparent reason.

--more--

During the fight, 30-year-old Chevez Lewis punched 45-year-old Anthony Becton while Becton sat in a car. As Anthony Becton attempted to drive away, he ran over 26-year-old Nautiara Mack. While Mack was under the car, Lewis shot Anthony Becton, who survived. Anthony Becton is Nelson Becton's cousin.

Chevez Lewis went on trial last week in front of Judge Croce. After two days of trial, Chevez pled guilty to the following charges:

- Felonious Assault with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Having a Weapon Under Disability – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

Judge Croce also found Lewis guilty of being a repeat violent offender and sentenced Lewis to 16-to-20 years in prison.

Nelson Becton was recently convicted on federal drug charges and is currently serving a 12-year sentence in federal prison. The sentence issued by Judge Croce will be served after Becton completes his federal sentence.

-- 30 --