



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
X: @ProsecutorWalsh
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Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, October 19, 2023) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Kathryn Michael sentenced Deair Wray, 29, of Zahn Court in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for a double shooting which left one man dead.

Wray will be eligible for parole after serving 29 years of his sentence.

On October 6, 2023, a Summit County jury found Wray guilty of the following charges:

- Three Counts of Murder with Firearm Specifications – Special Felonies
- Improperly Discharging a Firearm At or Into a Habitation with a Firearm Specification – a Felony of the 2nd Degree
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault with Firearm Specifications – Felonies of the 2nd Degree
- Having a Weapon Under Disability – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

Just after 11pm on May 26, 2022, Cuyahoga Falls Police responded to a home on Forest Glen Drive for reports of a shooting. Upon arrival, they found two people shot, 23-year-old Giovanni Stanford, and 22-year-old Dezah Robertson. Stanford was shot several times and later died at the hospital. Robertson was shot in the leg and survived.

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Investigators discovered Deair Wray shot through the home's window and struck Stanford and Robertson. Wray and Robertson had a prior relationship and have a child together.

On October 12, 2023, co-defendants Durell McDowell, 33, of Brown Street in Akron, and Jameir McDowel, 33, of Shelby Avenue in Akron, each pled guilty to Obstructing Justice, a felony of the 3rd degree. Durell was sentenced to time served after spending one year in the Summit County jail. Jameir was sentenced to two years in prison. Both testified against Wray at trial.