



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 2020 Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, November 30, 2023) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Visiting Judge Thomas Teodosio sentenced Jaleel Sojourner, 28, of Homestead Avenue in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for the murder of 20-year-old Janine Surgen in July of 2020.

Sojourner will be eligible for parole after serving 18 years of his sentence.

Prior to sentencing, Sojourner pled guilty to the following charge:

- Aggravated Murder with a Gun Specification – a Special Felony

On July 3, 2020, 20-year-old Janine Surgen was shot to death while she was walking along 27th Street Southwest near West Waterloo Road in Akron. The shooting was captured on a nearby home security camera. Around 15 minutes after the shooting Akron Police officers pulled over a car driven by Jaleel Sojourner. Two juveniles were also in the vehicle. investigators determined Calvin Thompson, 20, of Highpoint Avenue in Akron, shot Surgen. Thompson was 16 at the time of the incident. Following a hearing in Juvenile Court, Thompson was bound over to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

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Thompson is currently serving a life sentence after pleading guilty on June 12, 2023 to murder with a gun specification, a special felony. Thompson will be eligible for parole after serving 23 years of his sentence.

The third person, who was 17-years-old at the time of the shooting, admitted to a charge of Having a Weapon Under Disability in Juvenile Court. The teen has not yet been sentenced.