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Three Akron Men Sentenced to Decades in Prison in Connection with Murder of Pregnant Woman

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, December 5, 2023) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Alison McCarty sentenced three men for their roles in the shooting death of 21-year-old Teyaurra Harris in April of 2022.

Judge McCarty sentenced Darrion Rackley, 20, of 11th Street in Akron, to 34-to-39.5 years in prison, Antonil Whitaker, 17, of Johnson Court in Akron, to 20-to-24 years in prison, and Jeremiah Williams, 22, of Amherst Street in Akron, to 20-to-24 years in prison.

In the evening of April 14, 2022, Darrion Rackley, 20-year-old Zyeir Saunders, 17-year-old Antonil Whitaker, and 21-year-old Jeremiah Williams parked on Rockaway Street in Akron, just up from where 19-year-old Jaunte Smith, 21-year-old Jaevaiaire Small, and 18-year-old Ni'Kayla Johnson were hanging out. 21-year-old Teyaurra Harris was a passenger in a car which pulled up in between the two groups.

As the driver of the vehicle Harris was in stuck his head out the window, Saunders, Whitaker, and Rackley started shooting. Ni'Kayla Johnson was struck twice in the leg.

Thinking the shots were coming from the vehicle with Teyaurra Harris, Small, Smith, and a third individual started shooting. Harris, who was six-weeks pregnant at the time, was struck in the head and died.

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On November 29, 2023, Rackley pled guilty to the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault with Gun Specifications – Felonies of the 2nd Degree

Following a hearing in Juvenile Court, Antonil Whitaker was bound over to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. On July 10, 2023, Whitaker pled guilty to the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Two Counts of Felonious Assault with Gun Specifications – Felonies of the 2nd Degree

On January 25, 2023, Jeremiah Williams pled guilty to the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Three Counts of Felonious Assault with Gun Specifications – Felonies of the 2nd Degree

On June 20, 2023, Jaeviaire Small was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Assault with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 4th Degree
- Having a Weapon Under Disability – a Felony of the 3rd Degree
- Carrying a Concealed Weapon – a Felony of the 4th Degree

On September 18, 2023, Jaunte Smith was sentenced to two and a half years in prison after pleading guilty to the following charge:

- Aggravated Assault with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 4th Degree

The seventh and last defendant in this case, Lenier Worthy, has a pre-trial scheduled for December 20, 2023.