



# Elliot Kolkovich

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## Summit County Prosecutor

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## Jury Finds Akron Man Guilty of Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday March 14, 2024) – Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced today that a Summit County jury found Luther Easter, 34, of Akron, guilty in connection with the murder of 34-year-old Dartanian Howard in September 2022.

Jurors found Easter guilty of the following charges:

- Aggravated Murder – a Special Felony
- Murder – a Special Felony
- Kidnapping – a Felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree
- Tampering With Evidence – a Felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

On September 18, 2022, Akron Police responded to the area of Flower Court and North Howard Street, just north of the “Y” Bridge, for a report of a body lying in the street. Investigators discovered 34-year-old Dartanian Howard, who had been shot several times. DNA recovered from the scene matched 32-year-old Laurelin Flanagan. Investigators determined Flanagan lured Dartanian Howard to the scene where Luther Easter and an unnamed accomplice killed him.

“Thank you to the jurors who came to this decision to hold Luther Easter responsible for Dartanian Howard’s death,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich. “Today’s verdict is one step in bringing justice for Mr. Howard and his family.”

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Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Tammy O'Brien will sentence Easter on Tuesday April 2, 2024, at 1pm.

On September 12, 2023, Flanagan pled guilty to the following charges:

- Voluntary Manslaughter with a Gun Specification – a Felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree
- Tampering With Evidence – a Felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

Judge O'Brien sentenced Flanagan to ten-to-15 years in prison.