



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release:

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Akron Man Sentenced to 9-to-12 Years in Prison for Attempted Murder Over Potato Chips Dispute

AKRON, Ohio (Monday, November 25, 2024) – Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Joy Malek Oldfield sentenced Melvin Wright, Jr., 43, of Frederick Boulevard in Akron, to 9-to-12 years in prison.

Wright previously pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Attempted Murder with a Firearm Specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree
- Having Weapons While Under Disability – a Felony of the 3rd Degree
- Illegal Possession of a Firearm in a Liquor Permit Premises – a Felony of the 3rd Degree

Wright's conviction and sentence arise from his actions on November 28, 2023. At approximately 8:40 p.m., Wright approached the victim inside a nightclub on Stanton Avenue in Akron and requested some of the victim's chips. When the victim refused, Wright followed the victim to his car and shot him in the face. The victim then drove to the hospital, where he received medical care for six days and survived.

"Summit County is safer without Melvin Wright on our streets," said Prosecutor Kolkovich. "Senseless violence has no place in Akron, and I am grateful that the survivor of this crime is continuing his courageous recovery. Thank you to my assistant prosecutors and the Akron and Metro Transit police departments for their work in holding Wright accountable."

Judge Oldfield also designated Wright as a Violent Offender. Upon his release from prison, he must annually register as a Violent Offender for 10 years. Since the start of the year, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has obtained convictions in 25 cases that require Violent Offender registration.

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