



# Elliot Kolkovich

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## Summit County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release:

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## Akron Man Sentenced to Minimum of 15 Years for Role in Murder of Pregnant Woman

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, December 11, 2024) – Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Lenier Worthy, 21, of Akron, to a prison term of 15-to-19.5 years for causing the death of a 21-year-old pregnant woman.

Worthy previously pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Two counts of Involuntary Manslaughter with a Firearm Specification, a Felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree;
- Improperly Handling a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle, a Felony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

On April 14, 2022 at approximately 7:30 p.m., Darrion Rackley, Zyeir Saunders, Antonil Whitaker, and Jeremiah Williams parked their car on Rockaway Street in Akron near a location where Worthy, Jaunte Smith, Jaevaiaire Small, and another woman were hanging out. A second car with the victim and others pulled up to that location and the driver stuck his head out of the window. At that time, Rackley, Saunders, Whitaker, and Williams opened fire on Worthy, Smith, and Small, who thought the gunshots were coming from the car. As a result, Worthy, Smith, and Small returned fire. The victim was caught in the crossfire and sustained a gunshot wound to the head. She was transported to the hospital, where she unfortunately died. The victim was six weeks pregnant at the time of her death.

“Gun violence, particularly when it causes the death of someone caught in the crossfire, diminishes our entire community,” Prosecutor Kolkovich said. “I continue to offer my sympathies to the victim’s family as they recover from the loss of their loved one. Thank you to the Akron Police Department for their investigative work and to my assistant prosecutors for holding all seven of the defendants involved in this shooting accountable for their actions.”

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Previously, Saunders, Rackley, Whitaker, and Williams pleaded guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and various counts of Felonious Assault with firearm specifications. Smith and Small also pleaded guilty to Aggravated Assault with firearm specifications for their actions. Including Worthy's sentence today, Judge McCarty has imposed prison terms totaling 130.5 years at minimum for all seven of the defendants involved in the shooting that led to the death of this victim.

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