



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES AT LEAST 17 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MAN WHO SHOT AT VICTIM, FLED LAW ENFORCEMENT

J.C. Sanders is a Repeat Violent Offender, Failed to Appear During Trial

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that J.C. Devar Sanders, 45, was sentenced to 17 to 21 years in prison for shooting at a victim and leading law enforcement officers on a lengthy pursuit in March 2022. His driver's license was also permanently revoked.

“J.C. Sanders is a repeat violent offender who tried to hide from justice by fleeing to Pennsylvania. Summit County, Ohio, and surrounding states are safer without him on our streets. I am grateful for the work of the Akron Police Department, law enforcement in Pennsylvania, and my assistant prosecutors to ensure this dangerous criminal was apprehended and brought to justice,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

Surveillance footage, witness testimony, and ballistics testing linked Sanders to the crime. On the last day of his trial, Sanders failed to appear, cut off his GPS monitoring device, and fled to Pennsylvania. Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge Tammy O'Brien proceeded with the closing arguments in absentia. Sanders was arrested in Pennsylvania in September 2024 and extradited back to Ohio.

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Last June, a Summit County jury found Sanders guilty of the following charges:

- One count of Felonious Assault – a 2nd Degree Felony – with a 3-year Firearm Specification and a Repeat Violent Offender Specification;
- One count of Failure to Comply with an Order or Signal of a Police Officer – a 3rd Degree Felony;
- One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability – a 3rd Degree Felony; and
- One count of aggravated menacing – a 1st Degree Misdemeanor.

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