



For Immediate Release Friday, April 4, 2025 CONTACT: <u>Elaine Vilem</u> (330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION FOR SHOOTING

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Stacy Martin, 27, was found guilty for the 2024 shooting of Elijah Jones outside Martin's home on Coventry Street.

Martin pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- One count of Voluntary Manslaughter with a 3-Year Firearm Specification a 1st Degree Felony;
- One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability a 3rd Degree Felony; and
- One count of Obstructing Justice a 3rd Degree Felony.

"Ohio's self-defense laws are not designed to protect a person that shoots a fleeing individual who no longer presents an imminent threat," said Prosecutor Kolkovich. "I want to thank the Akron Police Department for their diligent investigation in uncovering the facts of this incident."

In August 2024, four masked individuals, including Elijah Jones, forcefully entered Martin's Coventry Street residence through the front door. The intruders stole firearms and drugs before attempting to escape the same way they entered. As they fled, Jones fell, and as he got up to run again, Martin shot him in the back, fatally wounding him. Martin then proceeded to hide the gun and upon his interview with law enforcement, attempted to lie and state that he was not present during the altercation. Under Ohio law, self-defense only applies when a person reasonably believes that they are facing an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm, and the use of force must be reasonable and proportionate to the threat faced.

Martin is scheduled to be sentenced on May 19, 2025, at 11:15 a.m. by Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge Joy Malek Oldfield.