



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

CONTACT: [Elaine Vilem](#)

(330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES 4 TO 6 YEARS IN PRISON EACH FOR AGGRAVATED ROBBERY OF GROCERY STORE

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Lauren Bellar, 28, and Tyler Bates, 34, were each sentenced to 4 to 6 years in prison for the 2024 robbery of an Acme Fresh Market in Akron. Bellar was sentenced today, and Bates was sentenced in April. Both defendants pleaded guilty to Aggravated Robbery, a first-degree felony – Bellar in April, and Bates in March.

“This situation could have ended gravely, and I am glad nobody was more seriously injured. I want to thank the Summit County Deputies for their work in quickly apprehending Bates and Bellar,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In December 2024, two Acme Fresh Market security officers observed Tyler Bates exiting the store with a shopping cart full of unpaid merchandise. When confronted, Bates loaded the items into a vehicle – which Lauren Bellar was in – and refused to return them. He then physically attacked the officers. During the prolonged struggle, Bates attempted to stab one of the officers with a folding knife and bit him. As the officers worked to restrain him, Bellar joined in the altercation and hit the officers multiple times before fleeing the scene. The officers managed to detain Bates until Summit County Deputies arrived. Bellar was located and taken into custody shortly thereafter.

###