



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release

Monday, June 30, 2025

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE IN PRISON FOR COLD CASE MURDER OF DAMON HARRIS, JR.

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Kolkovich announced that Rondell Harris, 36, was sentenced to 24 years to life in prison for the 2016 murder of Damon Harris, Jr., 24, outside a barbershop on Copley Road in Akron. This sentence will run consecutively to a sentence of at least 26 years he is already serving for unrelated offenses he committed in Mahoning County. Harris will not be eligible for parole until 2073, when he will be 84 years old. Harris has also been designated a violent offender, which means Harris will have to register with his local sheriff's office every year for 10 years, should he ever be released from prison.

Last Thursday, Harris pleaded guilty mid-trial to the following counts:

- One count of Murder with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – an Unclassified Felony;
- One count of Aggravated Robbery with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 1st Degree Felony; and
- One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability – a 3rd Degree Felony.

“Damon’s family has waited nearly a decade for answers about the loss of their loved one. While nothing can bring Damon back, I hope this sentence offers them a measure of peace as they continue their journey of healing. I’m grateful justice has finally been served,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In March 2016, Rondell Harris went to a barbershop on Copley Road in Akron with the intent of committing a robbery. While surveying the area, Harris saw Damon Harris, Jr., outside and targeted him instead. After luring Damon to his vehicle, Harris attempted to rob him at gunpoint. When Damon tried to flee, Harris shot him once in the back with a shotgun. With no suspects at the time, the case went cold. In 2022, while in custody on unrelated charges, Harris confessed to the murder of Damon Harris, Jr., citing details that only someone involved in the crime would have known. He has since written multiple letters to Summit County Prosecutors, Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judges, and the Akron Police Department admitting to the killing.

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