



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES FINAL CONVICTION FOR PINE KNOLLS DRIVE SHOOTING

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Quynshod Taylor, 31, was found guilty for his role in the shooting of an apartment building on Pine Knolls Drive in 2023. Taylor's co-defendants Martaze Portis, 21, Solomon Varner, 20, and Jay'Viare Harden, 21, previously pleaded guilty to charges for their involvement in this case.

A Summit County Jury found Taylor guilty of the following charges:

- Two counts of Improperly Discharging a Firearm at or into a Habitation or a School Safety Zone both with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 2nd Degree Felony;
- One count of Improperly Handling Firearms In A Motor Vehicle with a Specification for Forfeiture of a Weapon – a 4th Degree Felony; and
- One count of Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance with a 6-Year Firearm Specification – a 5th Degree Felony.

Last December, Portis and Varner pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Two counts of Improperly Discharging a Firearm at or into a Habitation or a School Safety Zone both with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 2nd Degree Felony; and
- One count of Improperly Handling Firearms In A Motor Vehicle with a Specification for Forfeiture of a Weapon – a 4th Degree Felony.

In January, Harden pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Two counts of Improperly Discharging a Firearm at or into a Habitation or a School Safety Zone with one 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 2nd Degree Felony;
- One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability – a 3rd Degree Felony; and
- One count of Unlawful Possession of a Dangerous Ordnance – a 5th Degree Felony.

“These four defendants caused community panic and terror, and I am grateful to see all of them facing the consequences of their actions,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich. **“It is critical our residents feel safe and protected in their neighborhoods. I want to thank the Akron Police Department for their work in this investigation and my assistant prosecutors for bringing these four to justice.”**

In August 2023, Akron Police responded to a report of gunfire at an apartment building on Pine Knolls Drive. Upon arrival, officers observed multiple bullet holes in the walls of the building and in the driveway. Witnesses reported seeing three individuals fire shots at the residence before fleeing on foot and entering a black SUV parked nearby. Using Flock camera footage, investigators were able to track the vehicle to an apartment complex on Everton Drive in Akron. There, officers located and detained four individuals, identified as Taylor, Varner, Portis, and Harden. During the arrest, Harden was found in possession of a Glock 10mm magazine, and an additional magazine was recovered from the SUV. Further investigation revealed that Taylor had orchestrated the shooting, paying the other suspects to carry it out.

In February, Varner and Portis were sentenced to 10 to 11 years in prison. Taylor is scheduled to be sentenced on July 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Harden is scheduled to be sentenced on August 13, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

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