



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES FINAL SENTENCINGS FOR PINE KNOLLS DRIVE SHOOTING

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Jay'Viare Harden, 21, was sentenced to 7 to 9 years in prison, and that yesterday, Quynshod Taylor, 31, was sentenced to 18 to 22 years in prison for their roles in the shooting of an apartment building on Pine Knolls Drive in 2023. In February, co-defendants Martaze Portis, 21, Solomon Varner, 20, were each sentenced to 10 to 11 years in prison.

Last week, 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 individuals caused fear and panic throughout our community, and today, they are all finally being held accountable. I want to thank targeted law-enforcement task forces like the Gun Violence Reduction Team for their ongoing efforts to keep our communities safe,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

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.

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