



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER OF DARNELL MCGRADY

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Byron Johnson, 29, was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison for the 2024 murder of Darnell McGrady inside his residence on Wilbeth Road in Akron. Johnson will be eligible for parole after 18 years.

Johnson pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- One count of Murder with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – an Unclassified Felony;
- One count of Aggravated Burglary – a 1st Degree Felony; and
- One count of Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle – a 4th Degree Felony.

“This was a tragic and senseless killing. While nothing can bring Darnell back, I hope this conviction allows his loved ones to take another step forward in the healing process. My thoughts are with them as they continue to grapple with this loss,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In November 2024, Darnell McGrady had invited Byron Johnson to hang out at his residence on Wilbeth Road in Akron. After about an hour, Johnson grabbed McGrady’s gun from a nearby table and shot McGrady multiple times. Johnson fled the scene in a vehicle stolen from McGrady’s driveway. He then drove to the home of an acquaintance and asked her for money. However, when she turned away to retrieve the money, he broke through her storm door, assaulted her, and stole \$176. Officers later located Johnson using the GPS tracking system in the stolen vehicle.

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