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SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES 4 TO 6 YEARS IN PRISON FOR VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER OF KAMERON RUBIN

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Africa Watson, 28, of Akron was sentenced to 4 to 6 years in prison for the vehicular manslaughter of 30-year-old Kameron Rubin. Additionally, Watson received a lifetime driver's license suspension.

In September, a Summit County Jury found Watson guilty of one count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, a 2nd Degree Felony. In October 2023, Watson was found guilty of one count of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Drug of Abuse or a Combination of Them, a 1st Degree Misdemeanor.

“Our condolences remain with Kameron Rubin’s family as they navigate and grieve this devastating loss. I am grateful for the work of the police investigators and my assistant prosecutors who relentlessly pursued justice to a final verdict,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

Two previous trials ended in a mistrial after the jury deadlocked on a verdict. The third jury unanimously found Watson guilty. Kameron Rubin’s family requested a four-year sentence, which the Court imposed as the minimum term of the six-year indefinite sentence under Ohio law.

In January 2023, Macedonia Police Officers responded to a call reporting a body found in the roadway on I-480 eastbound. When officers arrived, they found Twinsburg officers attending to a male, later identified as Kameron Rubin, who was suffering from severe head and facial trauma, suspected to have resulted from a hit-and-skip traffic accident. Rubin was transported to Ahuja Medical Center, where his death was later confirmed.

Officers examined Rubin’s nearby vehicle and observed a dent in the driver’s side door, along with blood near the area of impact. Several vehicles were parked a distance ahead with their hazard lights activated, with the defendant, Africa Watson, parked the furthest away. When officers approached, they observed her vehicle with severe damage to the passenger-side front end. The driver, Watson, appeared intoxicated. Watson explained that she had a flat tire, which was why the vehicle was parked, but officers did not observe any flat tires. Watson alleged she was unaware she had struck anyone.

Officers also observed evidence from the victim's body on Watson's vehicle. After observing additional signs of intoxication, officers asked Watson to perform a sobriety test, after which she was placed under arrest for OVI. Watson's passenger stated that she had been asleep and was awoken by the sound of an impact.

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