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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE FOR THE MURDER OF KRISTINA SMITH

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Rasheed Lagway, 44, of Akron, was sentenced to life in prison for the 2025 murder of 39-year-old Kristina Smith. Lagway will be eligible for parole after 15 years.

Last month, a Summit County Jury found Lagway guilty of the following charges:

- One count of Murder – an Unclassified Felony;
- One count of Felonious Assault – a 2nd Degree Felony; and
- One count of Domestic Violence – a Misdemeanor of the 1st Degree.

“This was a brutal act of violence that took the life of Kristina Smith and forever changed the lives of those who loved her,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich. **“No sentence can undo that loss, but we will continue to stand with her family and hope today brings them some measure of closure.”**

In October 2025, Kristina Smith and her husband, Rasheed Lagway, were spending the evening at the bar she was employed at when Lagway became upset after observing an interaction between Kristina and another patron. After returning to their shared home in Akron, Lagway assaulted Kristina. Kristina fled the residence and contacted a friend from a nearby McDonald’s and was transported to Dollar General, where she also worked. Dollar General employees later reported that Lagway arrived at the location after Kristina had left, asking about her whereabouts. Kristina stayed overnight at her friend’s home and was found deceased on the floor the next morning. An autopsy revealed Kristina died as a result of four broken rib tips that lacerated her spleen, causing her to bleed internally throughout the day.

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