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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER OF NARLON LAMAR PORTIS

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Rosue Pierce, 57, of Akron, was sentenced to life in prison for the 2025 murder of 52-year-old Narlon Portis. Following a bench trial, a Summit County Court of Common Pleas judge found Pierce guilty of one count of Murder, an Unclassified Felony, and one count of Felonious Assault, a 2nd Degree Felony. Pierce will be eligible for parole after 15 years.

“The lives of Narlon Portis’ family and friends are forever changed. While nothing can bring Narlon back, I hope that today’s sentence gives them some measure of closure during this difficult time of grieving,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In May 2025, Rosue Pierce attended a barbecue on Cromwell Drive in Akron. During the event, Pierce became agitated with another attendee, Narlon Portis, over music being played through a portable speaker. Portis complied when asked to turn off the music, resolving the issue at that time. Later, as Portis was preparing to leave, he began playing music again using a borrowed speaker. Pierce became angry and began yelling at him. During the confrontation, Pierce retrieved a large butcher knife from the grill area and approached Portis as he was returning the speaker. Pierce then stabbed Portis, who died at the hospital later due to his injuries. Pierce fled the scene in his vehicle. Four days later, he turned himself in to police. Officers recovered a bloodied butcher’s knife from Pierce’s apartment, and surveillance footage from a nearby residence captured the attack.

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