



ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release

Friday, September 11, 2026

CONTACT: [Elaine Vilem](#)

(330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES CONVICTION FOR HIGHLAND SQUARE SHOOTING OF TIMOTHY HUTCHINSON

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Deshawn Stafford, 24, of Akron, was found guilty for his role in the 2025 shooting and death of 25-year-old Timothy Hutchinson in Highland Square. Co-defendant Emanhi Thomas, 24, of Akron, pleaded guilty for his role in the shooting last month.

Deshawn Stafford pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 1st Degree Felony;
- One count of Trafficking in Cocaine with a Major Drug Offender Specification – a 1st Degree Felony;
- One count of Discharge of a Firearm On or Near Prohibited Premises with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 3rd Degree Felony; and
- One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability – a 3rd Degree Felony.

On August 27, Emahni Thomas pleaded guilty to one count of Involuntary Manslaughter with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 1st Degree Felony.

“Timothy Hutchinson was an innocent bystander whose life was cut short by a reckless act of violence. I have no tolerance for violent gun crimes in Summit County. While nothing can bring Timothy back, I hope knowing Deshawn Stafford and Emahni Thomas are being held accountable brings his loved ones some closure. Every person should be able to enjoy a safe night out with their friends in our communities,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In October 2025, Deshawn Stafford, while sitting in his vehicle when he saw Emahni Thomas walking southbound on West Market Street in Highland Square. Stafford, who had previously been involved in altercations with Thomas, exited his vehicle and began following Thomas with a handgun in his right hand. Stafford then raised the gun and began chasing Thomas. During the chase, Thomas ran eastbound on the sidewalk toward Barmacy Bar and Grill and past 25-year-old Timothy Hutchinson, who was walking with a friend. Thomas then fired two shots at Stafford, who shot back. During the exchange, one of the bullets struck Hutchinson in the head. Stafford continued chasing Thomas before returning to his vehicle and fleeing the scene. Thomas also fled in a separate vehicle. Utilizing FLOCK camera footage, officers were able to locate and arrest both Stafford and Thomas. Hutchinson was transported to the hospital, where he died hours later.

While investigating the shooting, law enforcement executed a search warrant on Stafford's residence and recovered 800 grams of cocaine. Under Ohio Law, the minimum threshold of cocaine to be classified as a Major Drug Offender is 100 grams.

Stafford and Thomas are scheduled to be sentenced on October 22, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

###