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NEWS
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Jury recommends death for Officer Miktarian's killer

(Akron) ... The jury in the killing of Twinsburg Police Officer Josh Miktarian has recommended that Ashford Thompson, 25, of Twinsburg be put to death. After hearing testimony on Thursday from defense witnesses on behalf of Thompson, and hearing Thompson himself apologized, the jury delivered its recommendation at 10:00 a.m. Friday morning after three hours of deliberations that began Thursday, at 3:30 p.m.

Thompson will be sentenced by Judge Elinore Stormer on June 23, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. The jurors had the choice of recommending Thompson be sent to prison for a life term with 25 full years before he is eligible for parole, life with 30 full years before he could get parole, life without parole, or death.

“We believe the jury’s recommendation that Ashford Thompson be put to death for killing Officer Miktarian is the right punishment for this cold blooded murder. Every time an officer puts on that badge he or she may be in harm’s way, risking their lives for our safety and protection. Nothing can change the events of that night. A widow grieves, a child longs for her father, parents have buried a son, and we join fellow officers who mourn for an outstanding colleague.”

Ashford Thompson, 25, of Twinsburg, was found guilty on June 3, 2010, of the Aggravated Murder of Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian. In the early morning hours of July 13, 2008, Officer Miktarian pulled Thompson’s car over for playing loud music and suspicion of drunk driving. Within minutes after Officer Miktarian reported pulling the car over and then calling for backup, Thompson pulled a concealed handgun from his pocket and shot point blank into Officer Miktarian’s head. As the officer fell to the ground, Thompson bent down, placed the gun against the officer’s head and fired three more times. Thompson and his girlfriend fled the scene and he was later found at his sister’s house in Bedford, where he fought with Bedford Officers. Officer Miktarian’s engraved handcuffs were still on his wrist.

At the request of Twinsburg Police Chief Christopher Noga, Detectives Jason Kline and Scott Plymire of the Summit County Sheriff’s Department conducted the investigation that led to Thompson’s convictions.