

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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2nd Man Pleads Guilty for Role in 2013 McDonalds Murder

(August 11, 2014... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Jeff Lamar Rucker, 23, of Schiller Avenue in Akron, pleaded guilty to Complicity to Commit Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree, and Obstructing Justice, a felony of the third degree, before his trial was to begin in Judge Alison McCarty's courtroom.

On April 6, Rucker drove co-defendant Johnnl Lewis to the McDonald's on West Market Street in Akron, which Lewis then attempted to rob. Employee John Lehman was taking out the trash and encountered Lewis as he tried to enter the restaurant. Lewis shot Lehman twice and then fled. Rucker drove Lewis away from the scene, knowing there had been a shooting and having seen Lewis with a gun. Rucker repeatedly lied to Akron police detectives regarding his involvement in the shooting.

Lewis, then 21, of Springdale Street in Akron, pleaded guilty on October 23 to Aggravated Murder; Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree; Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree; Having Weapons Under Disability, a felony of the third degree; and three firearm specifications. Judge McCarty sentenced him to life in prison with parole eligibility after 31 years.

Judge McCarty will sentence Rucker at 9:00 a.m. on September 25.