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NEWS

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Man Sentenced to Seven Years for Pizza Delivery Heist

(Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Michael Murkins, 22, of Akron was sentenced today to seven years in prison by Judge Unruh after being found guilty by a jury this morning in the armed robbery of a pizza delivery driver. He was convicted of one count of **Aggravated Robbery with a Firearm Specification**, a felony of the first degree, and one count of **Robbery with a Firearm Specification**, a felony of the second degree.

“This young man will spend seven years of his life behind bars over a pizza and \$40,” said Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh. “It took less time for the jury to find him guilty – roughly three hours – than it took for them to plan this heist.”

On December 29, 2008, Murkins, along with Melody Rivers, 19, Jazzmon Nicole Loftin, 22, and Jusae Lee Easter, 18, planned the robbery of a food delivery man. At first, the foursome tried to order Chinese food, but the order was refused. They then called a pizza shop and placed a large order, giving specific instructions for the driver to deliver the pizza to an isolated section of Rentar Lane in Akron. When the driver delivered, Murkins and Easter ambushed the driver when he approached. Easter jumped out holding a gun and demanded the pizza and the money. Murkins stayed in hiding as backup. They took the food and \$40 in cash.

Loftin, and Easter pled guilty last month to Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree, and Rivers pled guilty to Robbery, a felony of the third degree. The other three will be sentenced at a later date.