

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Lollis Guilty of Murder**

(May 19, 2009, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Thomas Lollis, 34, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury this afternoon of Murder (with a Gun Specification), a Special Felony, Having a Weapon Under Disability, and Tampering with Evidence, both felonies of the third degree, for Murdering Andre Wood, 30, of Cleveland.

Lollis will be sentenced by Judge Judith Hunter next Thursday, May 28 at 3 p.m. at which time she will also hold a Repeat Violent Offender hearing. If he is found guilty by the judge of being a Repeat Violent Offender, he faces an additional ten years in prison. The maximum sentence he can receive is 38 years to life. Prosecutors will be asking for the maximum. He previously served a lengthy prison sentence for Felonious Assault for shooting off a man's leg.

On July 4, 2007, Lollis, Ahmad Diggins, and Brooke Thompson (both of Cleveland), along with the victim, were at a party in Akron. The Defendant and Andre argued throughout the evening and all were drinking alcohol. The four left the party to go out for more partying. In the early morning hours of July 5, the four ended up at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Settlement Street on the east side of Akron which is a remote area that abuts an abandoned factory. Once there, all four got out of the car and the argument continued between Lollis and Andre. The Defendant grabbed a gun out of the car that belonged to Thompson and shot Andre. Andre fell to the ground and as he crawled away, Lollis shot Andre three more times in the back. Two of the shots were at very close range. Thompson and the Defendant took off leaving Diggins with Andre. Andre died at the hospital.

Lollis fled to Houston and was featured on America's Most Wanted. He was arrested a year later by the Houston Police Department after a long foot chase. He jumped out a window, broke into another apartment, and jumped through another window before being apprehended by a task force of the Houston Police Department.

Andre died on his birthday, July 5.