

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Laurie Cramer
(330) 643-2800

Lollis Guilty of Murder

(May 28, 2009, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Thomas Lollis, of Akron, was sentenced by Judge Judith Hunter to 31 years to life in prison this afternoon after being found guilty by a jury on May 19, 2009 for the murder of Andre Wood, 30, of Cleveland. Lollis was sentenced to 15 years to life for Murder, a Special Felony; three years for an added Gun Specification; five years for Having a Weapon Under Disability; and five years for Tampering with Evidence, both felonies of the third degree. Judge Hunter found Lollis guilty of being a Repeat Violent Offender, adding three years to Lollis's sentence for a total of 31 years to life. Lollis, 34, will not be eligible for parole until he is 65 years old.

Walsh said, "Andre Wood was murdered in cold blood and I am very pleased that he will not be eligible to get out of prison until he is 65 years old. Akron is a better place without Thomas Lollis. I hope that Andre's family can put the trial behind them and rest easier knowing that Lollis isn't going to hurt anyone else."

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 Defendant asked the driver to pull off onto 9th Avenue, a remote street dead ending into Settlement Street. 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, was shot 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 U.S. Marshals after a long foot chase. He jumped out a window, broke into another apartment, and jumped through another window before being apprehended.

Andre died on his birthday, July 5.