

NEWS
For Immediate Release:
June 23, 2010

CONTACT: Laurie Cramer
Phone: (330) 643-2800

Officer Miktarian's killer sentenced to death

(Akron) ... Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer sentenced Ashford Lamar Thompson, 25, of Twinsburg, to death for killing Twinsburg Police Officer Josh Miktarian.

On June 11, a Summit County jury recommended the death penalty to the judge after finding Thompson guilty earlier in the month of the Aggravated Murder of Officer Miktarian.

Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh said, "Ashford Thompson is a cold blooded murderer who showed no remorse for killing Officer Miktarian. The death penalty is reserved for the worst crimes upon society. This horrible crime fits that description. Today's sentence demonstrates to the men and women in uniform who protect us that the justice system works for them, too.

"Over a week ago at the mitigation hearing Ashford Thompson had a dozen witnesses testify to his character. It was Ashford Thompson's day. Today is a day for the Miktarian family. I respect them for the grace and courage they have shown throughout this process and hope that as they put the pieces back together again, they know that the citizens of Summit County will not forget their sacrifice."

Walsh concluded, "I want to commend Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Gessner, Assistant Prosecutor Brian LoPrinzi, Sheriff's Office Detective Jason Kline, and all the officers who worked so hard to ensure justice for Office Miktarian and his family. I also want to thank Kristen Arapp, the Director of my office's Victim Services Division, and Maureen Vos, one of our victim advocates, who worked to support the Miktarian family throughout this process."

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, the Thompson investigation was led by Detectives Jason Kline and Scott Plymire of the Summit County Sheriff's Department.