

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man found guilty of Aggravated Murder after luring and killing immigrant shoe salesman

(November 5, 2010 Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Xzavier Penwell, 19, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury today after one hour and 45 minutes of deliberations to Aggravated Murder, Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Tampering with Evidence and Weapons Under Disability.

Penwell will be sentenced on November 16, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in Judge Alison McCarty's courtroom. Penwell faces the possibility of a sentence of life without parole for the ruthless murder.

On April 22, 2010, on the corner of Boone St. and Buckingham St. in Akron, Ohio, the victim, Abdulmahdi Al-Garawi, was shot once by Xzavier Penwell. Co-defendant DeAnthony Smith, 19, also of Akron, and Penwell then stole the victim's van containing numerous pairs of shoes. The victim was lured to the area for the sale of shoes. The victim's vehicle, a 2002 Blue Dodge Caravan, was located several hours later on the other side of Akron. It had been set on fire. In the weeks that followed the murder Penwell sold the shoes on the streets.

Smith was found guilty by a jury on September 17, 2010 and was sentenced to 21 years to life in prison for his role in the murder of Abdulmahdi Al-Garawi.

The victim left a widow and three children.