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NEWS
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Dawud Spaulding Sentenced to Death

First capital murder case prosecuted in Domestic Violence Court

AKRON, OHIO – January 31, 2013– Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that a jury determined that Dawud Spaulding, 30, of East Buchtel Avenue in Akron, should receive the death penalty for the murder of Erica Singleton and Ernie Thomas and paralyzing Patrick Griffin in a 2011 shooting spree.

Singleton, Spaulding’s girlfriend and mother of his seven-year-old son and two-year-old daughter, had filed for a civil protection order and was in hiding from Spaulding when he murdered her. Spaulding had discovered where Singleton was staying and drove by the house on the morning of December 15, shooting and paralyzing Griffin, who was leaving the home. Later that morning, Spaulding returned to the home and shot and killed Singleton and Thomas, Griffin’s uncle, in the driveway. Because the jury found Spaulding guilty of the specification for murdering two people, Spaulding was eligible to receive the death penalty.

“I know this was a very difficult decision for the jury, and I thank them for carefully weighing all of the facts in this case,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “This proves that domestic violence cases cannot be taken lightly. The prosecutors in my Domestic Violence Unit worked hard to ensure justice for Erica Singleton, Ernie Thomas and Patrick Griffin. I thank them and Judge Paul Gallagher, who presided over this case in the Domestic Violence Court.”

This was a brutal, calculated shooting spree that left two people dead and a third near death, and it illustrates the seriousness of domestic violence,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I thank the jury and everyone who worked on this very difficult case for ensuring justice for Erica, Ernie and Patrick.”

On November 9, the jury found Spaulding guilty of:

- Two counts of Aggravated Murder, with a specification for killing two or more people
- Attempted Murder, a felony of the first degree, with a firearm specification
- Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree, with a firearm specification
- Domestic Violence, a felony of the third degree
- Having Weapons Under Disability, a felony of the third degree
- Intimidation of a Crime Victim, a misdemeanor of the first degree, and
- Violation of a Protection Order, a misdemeanor of the first degree

Judge Paul Gallagher will officially sentence Spaulding on February 15.