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NEWS
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NEW TRIAL IN HAYWOOD CASE

AKRON, OHIO – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Paul Gallagher ordered a new trial for Deshanon J. Haywood, 22, of Brittain Road in Akron. The defense had previously filed a motion requesting a new trial in the matter and the State agreed to a new trial.

The death penalty is a serious matter that not only contemplates the life of the Defendant, but also can be taxing on the victims' families and the judicial system. However, the evidence clearly shows and a jury of his peers has found that Deshanon J. Haywood played a key role in the aggravated murders of four people. Therefore, the death penalty was and is an appropriate sanction to pursue.

In the trial, two witnesses had unrelated legal troubles of their own. Decisions were made that resolved their cases close to the time of their testimony in the murder trial. While the resolutions were not connected, arguments clearly could have been made by the defendant's attorneys that they were.

Rather than risk future appeals of these issues, years down the road, a new trial would eliminate any appearance of a problem. The families in these matters would relive, with years of appeals, the tragedy they experienced. If a new trial eliminates what might become an issue in an appeal 10 or 15 years down the road it makes sense to do so.

"I do believe that a case of this magnitude requires the highest care and scrutiny by all those associated with the proceedings," said Prosecutor Walsh. "Therefore, I have decided that agreeing to a new trial is the proper course of action to eliminate any appearance of impropriety whether valid or not."

Judge Paul Gallagher has scheduled the new trial to begin on April 27, 2015.