



MATHIAS H. HECK, JR.  
Prosecuting Attorney

DEBRA B. ARMANINI  
First Assistant  
Prosecuting Attorney

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**Mathias H. Heck, Jr.**  
**Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney**

**PRESS RELEASE**

January 9, 2009

**State v. Brandon R. Phillips**  
**2007-CR-3482/1**

Montgomery County Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. reported today that Brandon R. Phillips, 20, entered a plea of guilty to all charges in the indictment filed against him, including mandatory firearm specifications. On August 21, 2007, the defendant, along with Michael A. Perdue, was involved in a robbery of Covault Grocery and Meat Market on Wayne Avenue in Dayton, which resulted in the shooting deaths of Roger Covault and Robert Harris. Defendant Perdue previously pled guilty as charged on January 6, 2009.

This defendant entered the market to commit a robbery armed with a handgun and wearing a mask and gloves. During the commission of the robbery, the victims were held at gunpoint. The defendant fatally shot both victims and fled before anything was stolen. An armed neighbor, hearing the gunshots, confronted the defendant and held him at gunpoint until police arrived.

The defendant has pled guilty as charged to:

- Four counts Aggravated Murder with firearm specifications
- Two counts of Aggravated Robbery with firearm specifications
- Two counts of Kidnapping with firearm specifications

Immediately after the plea, the defendant was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole, plus an additional 46 years of incarceration. The state agreed to this sentence, which was offered by the defense, in lieu of going to trial and asking for the death penalty, in order to guarantee that this defendant will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. said, "This plea was only accepted after meeting with, and the consent of, the families of both victims as well as the Dayton Police Department."

Prosecutor Heck added, "This defendant senselessly killed two innocent victims while robbing the market, and will spend the rest of his life in the penitentiary. Tragically, homicides such as this forever alter the lives of not only the victim's family, but the entire community."

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For additional information, contact: Mr. Greg Flannagan, Administrative Assistant, 937-225-5610

5th Floor • Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building • Post Office Box 972 • 301 West Third Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45422 • (937) 225-5757 • TDD (937) 496-3215 • FAX (937) 225-3470

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