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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dayton Man Sentenced to Prison for Murder Conviction**

*State v. Laron Cunningham, 2018-CR-4739*

**DAYTON, OH (05/10/2021)** – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **LARON N. CUNNINGHAM**, 41, of Dayton, was sentenced to a total of 34 years to life in prison after being convicted of the murder and robbery of Michael Oliver, whose body was discovered on December 8, 2018.

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, the defendant was found trespassing in an apartment building. He claimed he needed medical help and was taken to the hospital. While at the hospital he made statements about killing a man at a specific apartment in the Wilkinson Apartments. Police were dispatched on this information and found 60-Year old Michael Oliver stabbed to death in his apartment. The defendant sold the victim's possessions so that he could obtain crack cocaine.

Evidence, including DNA, video surveillance, and the defendant's own words confirm the defendant was responsible for Michael Oliver's death.

On April 2, 2019, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant on multiple felony counts, which included Repeat Violent Offender Specifications. The defendant was previously convicted of Robbery in 2004, Aggravated Robbery in 2006, and Felonious Assault in 2004.

On April 16, 2021, after a trial, the jury returned verdicts of guilty on counts including Murder, Felonious Assault, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, and Burglary.

Today, the trial court found the defendant guilty of the Repeat Violent Offender Specifications. The defendant was then sentenced to life in prison, and will not be eligible for consideration of parole until he has served at least 34 years.

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