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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teen Sentenced for Murder of Pregnant Woman

State v. Brandon Leigh, 2018-CR-3087

DAYTON, OH (04/23/2020) – Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **BRANDON WILLIAM LEIGH**, 19, of Dayton, was sentenced to 30 years-to-life in prison after being convicted of the fatal shooting of Keyona Murray on February 16, 2018.

On Friday, February 16, 2018, Dayton Police and medics were dispatched to a home in the 100 block of Lorenz Avenue on a report of a shooting. Inside the home, they located the victim, 22-year-old Keyona Deshawn Murray. The victim had been shot in the head. She was transported to the hospital but died from her injuries. The victim was pregnant at the time, and her fetus also died.

Investigators determined that the shot had been fired towards the home from an alley behind the residence. Further investigation determined the defendant, 17 years old at the time, was the shooter.

Because of the serious nature of the charges, the age of the defendant, and the defendant's lengthy juvenile criminal record, on April 3, 2018, a motion was filed in the Juvenile Court to have the defendant transferred and tried as an adult. On August 8, 2018, Judge Anthony Capizzi found that there was probable cause, and ordered that the defendant be transferred to the General Division of the Common Pleas Court to be tried as an adult.

The defendant was indicted on August 31, 2018, on one count of Murder, one count of Involuntary Manslaughter, one count of Improperly Discharging a Firearm At Or Into a Habitation, and one count of Having Weapons While Under Disability for a prior offense of violence. All of the counts, except for having weapons while under disability, included 3-year firearm specifications.

On March 12, 2020, after a jury trial, the defendant was found guilty on the counts of Murder, Involuntary Manslaughter, Improperly Discharging a Firearm At Or Into a Habitation, and the firearm specifications. After a separate bench trial, the court found the defendant guilty of Having Weapons While Under Disability.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to life in prison. He will not be eligible for consideration of parole until he has served at least 30 years in prison.

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