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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trotwood Man Sentenced for Killing Three in Crash

State v. Antonion Ward, 2021-CR-1106

DAYTON, OH (05/31/2022) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **ANTONION K. WARD**, 20, of Trotwood, was sentenced to 24 years in prison after being convicted on counts in connection to a fiery traffic crash on July 15, 2020, that caused the deaths of three victims.

On the evening of Wednesday, July 15, 2020, the defendant was driving at a high rate of speed when he ran the red light at the intersection of Olive Road and Little Richmond Road in Trotwood. The defendant's vehicle struck 35-year-old Leah Smith's vehicle, causing both vehicles to go off the road. Victim Leah Smith died on impact. Her 3-year-old child, who was secured in a safety seat, was uninjured. The defendant's vehicle flipped and caught on fire, killing two passengers, 18-year-old Eligin Wilson, and 18-year-old Michael Stephens both of Dayton.

The defendant has never had a valid driver's license, was driving at least double the speed limit, and was driving on the wrong side of the road at the time of the crash.

On May 11, 2021, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant on three counts of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide.

On May 5, 2022, after a trial, a jury found the defendant guilty as charged.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to the maximum of 8 years in prison for each count, and those counts were ordered to be served consecutively, for a total of 24 years in prison.

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For more information, contact Mr. Greg Flanagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or info@mcpo.com