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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAR BROTHERS SENTENCED IN MURDER OF TEEN

TOLEDO, Ohio – Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney Julia R. Bates announced that Judge Lori L. Olender sentenced Delveon Lear, 24, and Diamani Lear, 23, to life in prison on July 16, 2026, for the 2025 murder of Joseph Johnson, 16, in Lucas County Common Pleas Court case Nos. CR2025-00364 and CR2025-00365. Diamani Lear will be eligible for parole after 48 years, while Delveon Lear will be eligible for parole after 36 years.

On March 4, 2025, Delveon and Diamani Lear, along with Omarion Coleman, 23, and Shamur Hughes, 23, drove to 800 Woodward Ave. in Toledo to sell a gun to Johnson. However, the Lears never intended to complete the sale. Instead, they planned to rob him of his money. During the meeting, the four men remained inside the vehicle while Johnson stood outside. From the back seat of the vehicle, Diamani Lear shot Johnson in the back. The four drove away, leaving Johnson behind. Johnson later died from his injuries.

A Lucas County jury found Delveon and Diamani Lear guilty on June 18, 2026, of one count of aggravated murder, two counts of murder, one count of aggravated robbery, one count of felonious assault, one count of discharge of a firearm on or near prohibited premises and one count of participating in a criminal gang. The jury also found Delveon Lear guilty of one count of having weapons while under disability. The aggravated murder, murder, aggravated robbery and felonious assault counts also included firearm and criminal gang specifications.

“Joseph Johnson was only 16 years old,” Bates said. “What appeared to be a gun sale was instead a planned robbery, and it ended with a young man losing his life. No amount of money is worth a human life, and those who choose violence to commit crimes will be held accountable. Today’s sentence reflects the serious consequences of those decisions. I hope today’s final sentencing brings a measure of peace to Joseph’s family.”

Coleman, in case No. CR2025-00362, pleaded guilty on March 5, 2026, to involuntary manslaughter with a three-year firearm specification and aggravated robbery. Judge Olender sentenced him to 15 years in prison on March 26, 2026.

Hughes, in case No. CR2025-00363, pleaded guilty on Feb. 5, 2026, to involuntary manslaughter and aggravated robbery. Judge Olender sentenced him to eight years in prison on July 13, 2026.

Assistant prosecutors Jennifer L. Donovan and Kaitlyn Tauber prosecuted the case for the Lucas County Prosecutor’s Office.

About the Lucas County Prosecutor’s Office

The Lucas County Prosecutor’s Office pursues justice, safeguards our community and advocates for victims. We balance accountability with individual rights, partnering with law enforcement to ensure public safety and fair governance. We are committed to integrity, outreach and justice for all.

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