

SANDRA KURT

2020 JUL 10 PM 2:45

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF SUMMIT, OHIO**

SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS

INDICTMENT TYPE: DIRECT

CASE NO. CR 2020-07-1630

INDICTMENT FOR: MURDER (1) 2903.02(A), 2903.02(D), 2929.02(B) UF; MURDER (1) 2903.02(B), 2903.02(D), 2929.02(B) UF; VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (1) 2903.03(A), 2903.03(C) F1; FELONIOUS ASSAULT (1) 2903.11(A)(1), 2903.11(D)(1)(A) F2; AGGRAVATED ARSON (1) 2909.02(A)(2), 2909.02(B)(3) F2; TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE (1) 2921.12(A)(1), 2921.12(B) F3; GROSS ABUSE OF A CORPSE (1) 2927.01(B), 2927.01(C) F5; PETTY THEFT (1) 2913.02(A)(1), 2913.02(B)(2) M1

In the Common Pleas Court of Summit County, Ohio, of the term of JUNE in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.

The Jurors of the Grand Jury of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County aforesaid, being duly impaneled and sworn and charged to inquire of and present all offenses whatever committed within the limits of said County, on their oaths, IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF OHIO,

COUNT ONE

DO FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **MURDER** in that he did purposely cause the death of [REDACTED] in violation of Section 2903.02(A), 2903.02(D), 2929.02(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, an UNCLASSIFIED FELONY, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT TWO

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **MURDER** in that he did cause the death of [REDACTED] as a proximate result of the offender committing or attempting to commit an offense of violence that is a felony of the first or second degree, to wit: Felonious Assault, 2903.11(A)(1), a felony of the second degree, in violation of Section 2903.02(B), 2903.02(D), 2929.02(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, an UNCLASSIFIED FELONY, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT THREE

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER** in that he while under the influence of sudden passion or in a sudden fit of rage, either of which was brought on by serious provocation occasioned by the victim that was reasonably sufficient to incite William Courtland Preston into using deadly force, did knowingly cause the death of [REDACTED] in violation of Section 2903.03(A), 2903.03(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **FELONY OF THE FIRST DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT FOUR

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **FELONIOUS ASSAULT** in that he did knowingly cause serious physical harm to [REDACTED] in violation of Section 2903.11(A)(1), 2903.11(D)(1)(a) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **FELONY OF THE SECOND DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT FIVE

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **AGGRAVATED ARSON** in that he did by means of fire or explosion knowingly cause physical harm to any occupied structure, in violation of Section 2909.02(A)(2), 2909.02(B)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **FELONY OF THE SECOND DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT SIX

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE** in that he did, knowing that an official proceeding or investigation was in progress, or was about to be or likely to be instituted, alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any record, document, or thing, with purpose to impair its value or availability as evidence in such proceeding or investigation, in violation of Section 2921.12(A)(1), 2921.12(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **FELONY OF THE THIRD DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT SEVEN

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **GROSS ABUSE OF A CORPSE** in that he did, except as authorized by law, treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities, in violation of Section 2927.01 (B), 2927.01(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

COUNT EIGHT

And the Grand Jurors of the State of Ohio, within and for the body of the County of Summit aforesaid, on their oaths in the name and by the authority of the State of Ohio, DO FURTHER FIND AND PRESENT, that **WILLIAM COURTLAND PRESTON** on or about the 30th day of May, 2020 through the 7th day of June, 2020, in the County of Summit and State of Ohio aforesaid, did commit the crime of **PETTY THEFT** in that he did with purpose to deprive the owner, [REDACTED], of property or services, to wit: Bicycle, knowingly obtain or exert control over either the property or services without the consent of the owner or person authorized to give consent, in violation of Section 2913.02(A)(1), 2913.02(B)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code, a **MISDEMEANOR OF THE FIRST DEGREE**, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

Prosecutor, County of Summit, by

S/ J. Damico
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Date: 7/10/2020

A TRUE BILL

S/ Sherri Bevan Walsh
Sherri Bevan Walsh, Prosecutor
County of Summit, Ohio
Ashley Fugle
Grand Jury Foreperson/Deputy Foreperson