



October 22, 2024

## **Jamar Skanes and Alontez Beasley Sentenced to Life in Prison Without the Possibility of Parole for Shooting and Killing a Mother in Front of Her Two Children**

CLEVELAND - Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced that Jamar Skanes, 50, and Alontez Beasley, 35, were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for shooting and killing 29-year-old Alyson Appling-France in front of her children in January.

"These two men are heinous individuals," said Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley. "They deserve to spend the rest of their lives behind bars without a chance to re-enter society. I pray her children can recover from witnessing the horrific execution of their mother."

On January 10, 2024, Skanes and Beasley went to Alyson Appling-France's apartment complex and conducted surveillance on her apartment for approximately eight hours. Clarence Bennett, Skanes, and Beasley then followed the victim to a local Target in Cleveland. Bennett continued to watch Alyson Appling-France exit her driver's vehicle with her two daughters, ages 6 and 10, and enter Target. He then waited until she exited the store and re-entered the vehicle. He informed Jamar Skanes and Alontez Beasley she was heading back to her apartment with her two daughters.

The victim's driver pulled into Appling-France's apartment complex near Detroit Avenue and Berea Road in Cleveland. Jamar Skanes and Alontez Beasley were waiting for her to arrive. As the victim opened the vehicle door and began to unload groceries, Beasley approached her and shot her with an automatic firearm 17 times within seconds. Skanes and Beasley then fled the scene. The victim's driver immediately drove her to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The Cleveland Division of Police responded to the scene. On January 26, Skanes and Beasley were arrested.

On August 27, 2024, Jamar Skanes was found guilty by a jury on the following charges:

- **One count of Aggravated Murder**
- **One count of Conspiracy to Commit Murder**
- **Two counts of Murder**
- **Five counts of Felonious Assault**

On August 27, 2024, Alontez Beasley was found guilty by a jury on the following charges:

- **One count of Aggravated Murder**
- **One count of Conspiracy to Commit Murder**
- **Two counts of Murder**
- **One count of Involuntary Manslaughter**
- **Five counts of Felonious Assault**
- **One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability**



They were both sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

**The U.S. Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force is actively searching for Clarence Bennett.**

**If you have any information regarding Clarence Bennett, please contact the U.S. Marshals at 1.866.4.WANTED.**

**Clarence Bennett – D.O.B. 10/03/1980**



Clarence Bennett is indicted on the following charges:

- **One count of Aggravated Murder**
- **One count of Conspiracy to Commit Murder**
- **Two counts of Murder**
- **One count of Involuntary Manslaughter**
- **Five counts of Felonious Assault**
- **One count of Having Weapons While Under Disability**