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Akron Man Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Wife's Death

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, March 29, 2017) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Gallagher sentenced Phillip Battle, 52, of Johnland Avenue in Akron, to 14 years in prison. Battle shot his wife to death in October of 2016.

On February 1, 2017, Battle pled guilty to the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter with a Gun Specification – a felony of the 1st degree
- Tampering with Evidence – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Failure to Comply – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Domestic Violence – a felony of the 4th degree

On October 11, 2016, Akron Police responded to the Johnland Avenue home for reports of a disturbance. Officers spoke with both Phillip Battle and Anita Heard who reported hearing voices in the house. Officers searched the home but found nothing out of the ordinary. The next day, Mr. Battle called 9-1-1 saying he had shot his wife. Officers arrived to find Anita Heard on the floor with a gunshot wound to her head. Officers arrested Mr. Battle a short time later. Heard died about a month after the incident.