



MICHAEL C. O'MALLEY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**Latierra “Queen” Williams Sentenced to 12 Years
in Prison for Opioid-Related Homicide**

CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O’Malley announced that Latierra Williams, 34, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for selling drugs to Jessie Keener, 32, that resulted in his death.

“As the opioid epidemic continues, we remain committed to stopping these drug dealers who are poisoning our community,” said Prosecutor O’Malley. “I commend the diligent work done on this case by the Sheriff’s Office, Lakewood Police and Cleveland Police Departments.”

On June 11th, 2017, Keener and Jennifer Baker, 38, rented a motel room in North Olmsted near I-480. Two days later, North Olmsted Police Officers received an anonymous call stating that a man, “Jessie,” may be in the hotel deceased with a female named Jennifer Baker. Upon arriving, officers discovered Baker inside the motel room with Keener’s lifeless body. The Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office Heroin Overdose Task Force processed the room and found numerous items suggesting drug usage. Testing done by the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Lab indicated positive results for Heroin, Fentanyl, Carfentanil, and Cocaine.

The investigation by the Sheriff’s Office revealed that Latierra Williams had sold the drugs to Baker. This was confirmed in Baker’s statement, phone records, and an admission Williams gave during a later interview with the Sheriff’s Office.

Coinciding with the Sheriff Office’s investigation was a separate investigation conducted by the Lakewood Police Department. In February 2018, Lakewood Police began investigating a defendant for drug trafficking. At the time, investigators only knew the defendant by her street moniker “Queen.” During their investigation, they were able to link “Queen’s” cellphone number to the same cellphone used to sell drugs to Baker and Williams was identified.

On April 3rd, 2018, a search warrant was executed on Williams’ Cleveland residence on W. 35th Street. During the search, officers recovered crack cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone, drug paraphernalia, and a firearm. Williams was placed under arrest and booked into Lakewood Municipal Jail. Williams posted bond the same day but failed to appear for arraignment on June 26th, 2018.

On August 25th, 2018, Williams broke into a westside Cleveland residence on Riverside Avenue to collect payment for a drug debt. The occupants (a man, his wife, and two children) woke up in the middle of the night to their door being kicked in. Williams assaulted the man while demanding money. The victim paid her \$400 and she fled the scene. She was apprehended by Cleveland Police approximately three weeks later. On February 25th, 2019, Williams pled guilty to Attempted Aggravated Burglary with 1-year Firearm Specification, and Felonious Assault, and was sentenced to three years in prison.

On February 27th, 2019, Williams pled guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter, Trafficking with Juvenile and 1-year Firearm Specifications, Having Weapons Under Disability, and Possessing Criminal Tools. She was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Brian Kraft and Patrick Lavelle.

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