



August 27, 2024

Jamar Skanes and Alontez Beasley Found Guilty of Aggravated Murder for Shooting and Killing 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 found guilty of aggravated murder and conspiracy to commit murder among other charges for shooting and killing 29-year-old Alyson Appling-France in front of her children in January.

"Alontez Beasley and Jamar Skanes brutally assassinated Alyson Appling-France in front of her two young children. Today, they were held accountable," said Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley. "Clarence Bennett remains a fugitive in this case. I urge the public, if you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Clarence Bennett, please call the U.S. Marshals at 1.866.4.WANTED."

On January 10, 2024, Skanes and Beasley went to Alyson Appling-France's apartment complex and conducted surveillance on her apartment for approximately 8 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.

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**

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 will be sentenced on October 8, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

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**