

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor
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Convicted murderer denied parole; to stay in prison until '28



An inmate from Trumbull County who was convicted of murdering a man along a Warren street in August 2000 will have to stay in prison for at least four more years after the Ohio State Parole Board earlier this month denied his release from prison.

Benjamin Green, 40, has spent the last 22 years of his life in prison. According to the prison website, Green will be eligible for his next release on parole in March 2028.

Last August, First Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Becker wrote to the parole board asking members to keep Green behind bars because he is “a brutal, calculated, cold-blooded killer.”

Four years ago, the 11th District Court of Appeals upheld an earlier ruling by a Trumbull County judge denying Green’s motion to withdraw his January 2002 guilty plea for murder in the shooting death of John Williamson, 18.

According to records, Green was just 16 years old when he fired four shots at Williamson as he rode his bicycle near Austin Avenue and Oak Street SW in Warren. One shot hit Williamson in the back of the head, killing him.

“The defendant ... executed the victim as the victim was riding a bicycle on the streets of Warren. The victim fell off of his bicycle, and the defendant then walked up to the injured victim and executed him by shooting him in the head,” Becker wrote.

Green told detectives shortly afterward he shot the bicyclist because he thought he might have a gun on him. The victim, Williamson stood just 4-foot 3-inches tall and weighed less than 100 pounds.

“The defendant claims he was afraid of the victim but yet shot and killed him without the victim so much as threatening the defendant let alone doing anything that would

warrant his death,” Becker wrote.

On Feb. 7, 2002, former Judge Peter Kontos sentenced Green to serve 18 years to life in prison. Green will continue to serve his prison sentence at Richland Correctional Institution.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator / public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office at 330-675-2485.