

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor  
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## Convicted murderer loses appeal in 11<sup>th</sup> District Court



The Ohio 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals has affirmed the conviction and prison sentence of Antuan M. Parker, who was sentenced for the September 2021 shooting death of a Warren woman.

Antuan Parker was found guilty by a Trumbull County jury on Jan. 13, 2023, of first-degree murder with firearm specification, two counts aggravated arson, gross abuse of a corpse, two counts tampering with evidence and two counts having weapons while under disability. Assistant Prosecutor Charles Morrow was trial attorney representing the state.

Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Cynthia Rice sentenced Parker to consecutive prison terms totaling 42- to 47½-years to life.

In his appeal, Parker had raised five assignments of error from his trial:

- The court had permitted the state to play a 911 call that contained statements from non-testifying witnesses;
- Parker's trial counsel rendered ineffective assistance because a motion to suppress the defendant's statement to police about taking a suboxone strip was not filed;
- The court had permitted the prosecution to elicit prejudicial testimony by leading a witness;
- There was insufficient evidence to convict Parker of the gross abuse of a corpse charge
- The conviction for murder was against the manifest weight of evidence.

After reviewing the issues, the 11<sup>th</sup> District court, led by Judge John Eklund and joined by fellow judges Mary Jane Trapp and Robert Patton, found that Parker's assignments of error were without merit.

Parker, 45, will continue to serve his prison term at Lake Erie Correctional Institution.

The state was represented by Assistant Prosecutor Ryan J. Sanders in Parker's appeal.

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