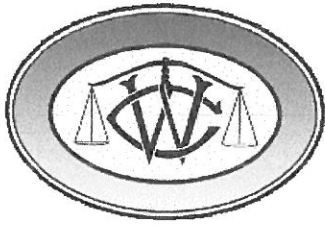


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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: October 21, 2021

RE: State of Ohio v. Aaron Lehane

Wood County Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson announced that another plea among the co-defendants in the case regarding the death of BGSU student Stone Foltz occurred today. Aaron Lehane pled guilty to a count of Obstructing Justice, a misdemeanor of the first degree. This was an amended charge from Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree. Mr. Lehane additionally pled to a charge of Obstructing Official Business, a misdemeanor of the second degree; eight counts of Hazing, misdemeanors of the fourth degree; and a count of violating laws regarding underage consumption, a misdemeanor of the first degree. During the hearing, Mr. Dobson stated that the prosecution's recommendation at sentencing would be dependent on Mr. Lehane's continued cooperation in the prosecution of the co-defendants. Among other sanctions the judge has available, he could sentence Mr. Lehane to up to eighteen months in jail. In addition to the above charges, Mr. Lehane was also facing eight more counts of Permitting Underage Consumption, which will be dismissed at the sentencing set to occur on February 10th.

Mr. Lehane had been indicted for his part in a fraternity event that included having new members, or pledges, drink copious amounts of alcohol. After consuming a full bottle of whiskey, Mr. Foltz was taken back to his apartment and left alone there. He was later found there by a roommate and ultimately emergency medical personnel were called. Mr. Foltz was taken to Wood County Hospital and then transported to The Toledo Hospital, where he died on March 7th. The Lucas County Coroner ruled his death as "fatal ethanol intoxication during hazing incident." Mr. Lehane is one of eight individuals who were indicted by the Wood County Grand Jury on various misdemeanor and felony charges, including Involuntary Manslaughter, Felonious Assault, Tampering with Evidence, Hazing, and Obstructing Justice. Mr. Lehane was not a student at the time of the event and therefore not a member of the fraternity. However, he was one of several roommates living in the house where the event took place. He had attended the event and, after police began an investigation, assisted in cleaning the house to get rid of evidence before the police could search the house.

Mr. Lehane is the second of the co-defendants to plead guilty to charges in the case. Another roommate of the house and a member of the fraternity, Niall Sweeney, pled guilty in September to a felony charge of Tampering with Evidence, as well as misdemeanor charges. Mr. Sweeney has also agreed to cooperate with prosecutors against his co-defendants. A trial date is currently set for January 10-28, 2022 for the remaining defendants.

Another co-defendant in the Stone Foltz case, Jacob Krinn, was before the court today as well on a bond violation hearing. Mr. Krinn had turned himself in on Tuesday and was being held in custody after a warrant had been issued for his arrest. Mr. Krinn was accused of violating his bond condition prohibiting him from consuming alcohol. According to the Wood County Probation Department, the monitor strapped to Mr. Krinn's ankle notified authorities that he consumed alcohol. At the hearing Mr. Krinn's attorney, appearing by telephone, indicated that his client denied the allegation and requested the opportunity to take a test using hair follicles, which counsel said would confirm the issue one way or the other. With no position taken by Mr. Dobson, the court released Mr. Krinn on the same bond conditions as before and ordered him to commence this test, the results of which will be heard on November 18th.