

Police

The work of Sylvania Township police was praised at a recent ground-breaking verdict in a homicide case in Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

In the verdict, Judge Myron Duhart found Coreon Snow-Veley guilty of involuntary manslaughter and trafficking in heroin in connection with the overdose death of a 17-year-old former Southview High School student.

Rob Miller, head of the special units division of the Lucas County prosecutor's office, said of the police, "they gave us the perfect case." It was the first attempt in the county to bring a death-related charge against a seller of heroin from which an overdose death resulted. Mr. Miller noted that it takes diligence on the part of police, and even then it can be difficult to connect the death with the seller.

As an initial attempt to get a more serious conviction, than only a drug sale, the prosecutor's office was looking for a case where all of the loose ends were tied up.

Deputy Police Chief Ray Carroll said the two primary detectives on the case did a great job, "and even if the verdict had gone the other way, I am proud of how hard they worked this case."

The defendant had waived his right to a jury trial and testimony and the case ended about a week prior to Judge Duhart rendering his verdict. He carefully explained his reasoning based on the evidence presented. Judge Duhart noted that the defense attorney had challenged the veracity of a key prosecution witness, but listed reasons, such as phone records and other evidence gathered by the detectives which supported the testimony.

The detectives assigned to the case are Tina Seney and John Szmania.

Snow-Veley will be sentenced at a later date.