

Gang charges dropped against man whose brother led violent Akron gang

By [Adam Ferrise, cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com)

AKRON, Ohio -- A man authorities once dubbed a ranking member of a violent Akron street gang avoided prison time on Thursday.

Marcus Dawson, 20, the brother of gang leader Williams Dawson, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obstruct justice, a fourth-degree felony. He was originally charged with participating in a criminal gang, a second-degree felony.

Defense attorney Donald Gallick said prosecutors never specified exactly what Marcus Dawson was accused of doing in the case.

"It was a repulsive prosecution," defense attorney Donald Gallick said. "I'm still not sure what crime he was charged with."

Summit County Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Dawson to two years on probation. Part of probation includes Marcus Dawson earning his equivalency diploma and find full-time employment.

Prosecutors had accused Marcus Dawson of earning the rank of "King" in the North Hill gang "Fraternity of Guap." Guap is slang for money. They said he was privy to meeting of the gang's leaders, where they discussed what crimes would be committed and who attained rank by killing strangers.

Prosecutors also found a photo of Marcus Dawson posing with FOG's gang signs with other gang members while investigating William Dawson, court records say.

"They don't really believe he's a threat to the community," Gallick said. "He has no felony record. He's been working the whole time."

Prosecutors said a witness in the case refused to testify against Marcus Dawson out of fear for his family's safety.

FOG is most known for two cases. William Dawson is serving an 18-year prison sentence for shooting Wylene Edwards, then 60, as she drove through North Hill in 2013.

William Dawson mistook Edwards' car for a rival gang member and sprayed her car with bullets, shooting her in the shoulder.

William Dawson also ordered gang member Corey Hardison to kill a stranger in order to move up in the gang. Hardison opened fire on Karma Tamang in July 2012, killing the 37-year-old Bhutanese refugee as he sat in his car in a North Hill parking lot.

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