

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Lisa Holdt
(330) 643-2800

Man found Guilty in Robbery

(January 28, 2010, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that yesterday Willie Sykes, 20, of Kinzie St. in Akron, was found guilty by a jury of **Aggravated Robbery**, a first degree felony, and **Aggravated Burglary**, a first degree felony, with gun specifications on both charges.

On October 11, 2009, the victim, his girlfriend and three friends returned home from getting pizza. The girlfriend and friends went into the apartment while the victim was at his trunk. He was approached by both Sykes and co-defendant Christopher Mitchell, who had guns and demanded money. A shot was fired outside to scare the victim. When the friends heard the shot, they bolted the door and called 9-1-1. The victim was hit with the gun and dragged into the apartment after they kicked in the bolted door. One shot was fired into the kitchen floor and another into wall. The victim's girlfriend came out of the bathroom and recognized both defendants. At this point, they ran out of the apartment. Sykes was seen by police running away and was caught one street over hiding behind a shed. Mitchell was arrested the next morning.

Willie Sykes will be sentenced by Judge Lynne Callahan on Friday, January 29, 2010, at 11:30 a.m. He is facing up to 23 years in prison.

Co-defendant, Christopher Mitchell's trial is scheduled for February 22, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.