

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man found guilty of Aggravated Robbery and Kidnapping

(Akron, July 28, 2011) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Thomas Witcher, 48, of Akron, was found guilty of Kidnapping and Aggravated Robbery, felonies of the first degree, and two counts of Firearm Specification. The jury reached its verdicts late yesterday afternoon. Witcher will be sentenced on August 10, 2011, by Judge Thomas Teodosio.

The victim, a student at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, stopped for gas at the BP located at Merriman Road and Portage Path. Witcher approached the victim and stated that his car broke down at the Circle K on Portage Trail. Witcher further made up that he did not know the area of Akron, his dad was dying, and claimed he only needed a ride to his broken down car.

The victim offered to give Witcher money or call for a ride. Witcher refused these offers and continued to persist to be given a ride. The victim finally agreed.

As they approached the Circle K, Witcher stated that his car was not there. Witcher then brandished a gun and demanded the victim to drive to another location. Witcher later demand money and forced the victim to buy him pizza, wings, beer and cigarettes. Witcher later left the victim's car at the Timber Top apartments. He took the victim's iPod as he left. Hours later, Akron Police apprehended Witcher, still possessing the iPod.