

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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17 Years in Prison for Man Who Raped Church Volunteer

(September 11, 2012... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Lynne Callahan sentenced David M. Anderson, 25, of Oberlin Street in Akron, to 17 years in prison for the rape and kidnapping of a woman on her way to volunteer at her church.

At 8:15 a.m. on May 15, a car drove several times by a woman walking to church, where she volunteered as a cook. Eventually the driver, whom the woman did not know and was later identified as Anderson, pulled into a parking lot and started talking to the woman. He offered her a ride to the church, which she accepted.

Anderson assaulted the woman, then pulled into the driveway of an abandoned house and parked behind it hidden from view. He then continued to assault her and threatened to shoot her, saying he had a gun. Anderson then raped the woman.

After the rape, the woman was able to exit the car just as police arrived. A neighbor had called 911 after seeing the car pull into the driveway and hearing a woman screaming "stop" loudly several times. Anderson denied anything happened in the car and claimed to know the woman, even though he did not know her name. Police found Anderson's DNA on her t-shirt, sweatshirt and sweatpants. Her DNA was also found on him.

A jury found Anderson guilty of Rape and Kidnapping, both felonies of the first degree, on September 7.