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Akron Man Guilty of Food Stamp Fraud

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, May 20, 2015) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that jurors found Johnnie Byrd III, 45, of Frederick Boulevard in Akron, guilty of Food Stamp Fraud.

Byrd was found guilty of the following charges:

- Engaging in Pattern of Corrupt Activity – a felony of the first degree
- Grand Theft – a felony of the second degree
- Money Laundering – a felony of the third degree
- Telecommunications Fraud – a felony of the fifth degree
- Illegal Use of Food Stamps – a felony of the fifth degree

Byrd operated Byrd's House Inc. at 1243 Andrus Street in Akron. Between October 2009 and March 2012, Byrd stole over \$1 million dollars in food subsidies. Byrd used customers' state supplied food benefits cards and billed Ohio for bogus purchases. Byrd would then give the customer cash, usually about half of what he charged the State of Ohio.

"Johnnie Byrd preyed on innocent people who were in need of help, just to fill his own pockets," said Prosecutor Walsh. "He took advantage of people who were entitled to this assistance, which makes his crime even worse."

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Amy Corrigan-Jones will sentence Byrd on Thursday May 28, 2015 at 9 am.

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