



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Pleads Guilty in Connection with Dragging of Police Officer** *Demardre Johnson Sentenced to Seven Years in Prison*

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, August 25, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Demardre Johnson, 29, of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Akron, pled guilty to several charges in connection with an incident where an Akron Police Officer was injured.

Johnson pled guilty to the following charges:

- Felonious Assault – a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Failure to Comply – a felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Obstructing Official Business – a felony of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree
- Resisting Arrest – a misdemeanor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Driving Under Suspension – a misdemeanor of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Scot Stevenson immediately sentenced Johnson to seven years in prison.

On February 20, 2016, Akron Police were conducting surveillance on an after-hours club when they noticed a vehicle driving with expired tags. Police attempted to pull the vehicle over, but the driver, Demardre Johnson sped up, then slowed down and eventually stopped. When officers approached, Johnson admitted to driving under suspension. He then refused officer's request to step out of the vehicle and attempted to put the vehicle in gear.

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Akron Police Officer Patrick Mazzei reached inside the vehicle to stop Johnson but was unsuccessful. Johnson put the vehicle in drive and began to drag Officer Mazzei at a high rate of speed. As Officer Mazzei was hanging from the door of the vehicle, Johnson began to jerk the vehicle back and forth in an attempt to knock Officer Mazzei off. Officer Mazzei eventually let go from the vehicle and rolled to avoid being struck by other vehicles. Johnson then crashed and ran off but was eventually captured. Officer Mazzei was treated at the hospital for minor injuries.