



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Ohio Man Indicted in Connection with Botched Tree Removal *Sagamore Hills Man Seriously Injured When Tree Fell on House*

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, January 24, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County Grand Jury indicted Cory Howard, 27, of Springfield, Ohio, in connection with debris removal caused by severe weather this past November.

Howard was indicted on the following charges:

- Theft from a Person in a Protected Class– a felony of the 4th degree
- Forgery – a felony of the 4th degree
- Falsification – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree
- Obstruction of Official Business – a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree
- Operating Without a County Vendors License – a minor misdemeanor

On November 19, 2017, emergency crews were called to 8084 Rolling Brook Road in Sagamore Hills after a tree fell on the home, injuring the owner, 82-year-old George Homa. Sagamore Hills Police determined Mr. Homa hired Alternative Property Maintenance to clean up debris following a strong storm which hit the area. During the process of removing the debris, workers with Alternative Property Maintenance were cutting down a tree when it fell on the home and trapped Mr. Homa. Mr. Homa suffered significant injuries and was taken by LifeFlight to a nearby hospital. Mr. Homa is currently in a rehabilitation facility recovering from those injuries. His home remains uninhabitable.

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A follow-up investigation by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office discovered Cory Howard is the owner of Alternative Property Maintenance, aka Alternative Tree Care and All-American Tree Specialists. Further investigation shows none of these businesses are registered with the Ohio Secretary of State's Office. Additionally, Mr. Howard did not register with the Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs, which is required to conduct business in Summit County.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office encourages anyone who has had any interaction with Mr. Howard or his businesses to contact our office at 330.643.2800.