

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man sentenced to 22 years for attack on Akron officer

(August 26, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Donte Sales, 28, of Akron, was sentenced today by Judge Stormer to 22 years in prison for attempting to kill an Akron Police officer. Specifically, Sales was sentenced to eight years on Felonious Assault, 10 years for Attempted Murder (with four additional years for being a Repeat Violent Offender), and eight years for Aggravated Robbery. The Felonious and the Attempted Murder are to run concurrently, but consecutive to the Aggravated Robbery and the RVO for a total of 22 years. Sales was found guilty by a jury on July 29, 2009.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "Violence against our police officers is intolerable. Let it be known that offenders will go to prison for this crime. Our officers have a job to do and in this case, Lt. Edwards was ensuring the safety of others at the facility when Sales came out of nowhere and attacked him. Twenty-two years is hopefully long enough for Sales to figure out how to be a positive member of society. Until then, he is where he belongs."

On January 9, 2009, Akron Police Lieutenant Rick Edwards was working security at Portage Path Psychiatric Emergency Support Services. Sales was at the facility and was on his way to the restroom when he abruptly turned around and ran at Lt. Edwards, striking him in the head from behind. Lt. Edwards fell to the ground and was knocked unconscious for several minutes. Sales then jumped on top of Lt. Edwards and began to punch and strangle him. He also tried to grab Lt. Edwards' firearm from his holster and was saying "I'm gonna kill you all, *****."

Staff members were able to restrain Sales while waiting for other police officers to arrive. Subsequent evaluations determined that Sales was competent to stand trial and was sane at the time of the crime.