

## MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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### Ohio Parole Board Denies Parole for 3 Inmates

(August 27, 2009) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that three hearings were held today at the Ohio Parole Board where Brad Gessner, Chief of the Criminal Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and Kristen Arapp, Director of the Summit County Prosecutor's Victim Services Division, testified on behalf of Prosecutor Walsh for the board not to release these criminals based upon the heinous nature of their crimes.

The first hearing was on Inmate **James Lockett**. Victim Services Director Kristen Arapp testified that James Lockett should remain in prison for the murder of Sydney Cohen. **The Ohio Parole Board agreed and continued Lockett's prison time to July 2011, when another hearing will be held.**

On January 15, 1975, Inmate Lockett robbed a pawn shop with three accomplices and Sydney Cohen (Syd's Market Loan), the stores owner, was killed. Lockett was a career criminal and planned the robbery by telling Al Parker and Nathan Earl Dew to pretend they were buying a gun from Mr. Cohen and then use it to rob him. Lockett and Dew entered the pawn shop and Parker followed shortly after. Accomplice Sandra Lockett stayed in the car to be the getaway. Parker was the "trigger" man as he loaded the gun with cartridges and pulled it on Mr. Cohen. James Lockett was considered the mastermind of the robbery that caused Mr. Cohen's death.

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The second hearing was on **Mark Lockett**, where Brad Gessner testified that Lockett should remain in prison for murdering 22-year-old Susan Soldierson. Susan's mother and brother-in-law also testified about the impact of Susan's death and murder on their family. The family also gave the board petitions that contained 20,800 signatures in favor of Lockett not being released. **The Ohio Parole Board agreed and extended Lockett's prison time to March 2014, when it will be reviewed again. The board had preliminarily agreed to release Lockett until Prosecutor Walsh and the family requested that the board reconsider their decision with a hearing.**

On June 25, 1986, Susan and her girlfriend planned to see a movie after work. When the movie had already started, they decided instead to go bowling at the Stonehedge Bowling Alley. While bowling, two men kept staring at Susan and her girlfriend and tried to make conversation. The two girls thought the men had left and left the bowling alley. As Lisa was unlocking the car for Susan, Lockett grabbed Susan and threw her into the front seat of a car. While the van sped off, Susan was either pushed or fell out of the car.

The three men, Marc Lockett, Albert Young and Victor Logan never took responsibility for Susan's death, and instead blamed each other. They were convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter, Kidnapping and Aggravated Robbery and were sentenced to 30 to 75 years. Susan Soldierson was a senior at the University of Akron and today would be 45 years old had she not be killed that night.

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The third case was a hearing on **Inmate Bernie Ingram**, where Kristen Arapp testified that the board should not grant his release because of the brutal murder of Kenneth Mack. After a night of drinking on February 13, 1990, Ingram stabbed Mack 69 times. On multiple occasions, Ingram would return while the body lay dead to steal Mack's belongings. **The Ohio Parole Board agreed and continued prison time to March 2014 when another hearing will be held.**