

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man Sentenced to 10 years for BP Robbery

(February 9, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Robert Gippin sentenced Joseph Sands, 53, of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, to 10 years in prison for robbing a BP Gas Station and attacking the clerk during the robbery.

Sands pled guilty on January 15, 2009 to Robbery, a felony of the second degree, Failure to Comply, a felony of the third degree, and OVI, a Misdemeanor one.

On July 30, 2008, Sands went into the BP Gas station located at 8775 Darrow Road in Twinsburg, OH. After making a purchase, he left the store and returned 10 minutes later. This time he was holding his finger under his shirt pretending to have a gun and demanded money from the register. The clerk of the store, a 31 year old female, called his bluff, which upset Sands. He punched her twice in the face and tried to get the register while the clerk continued to fight with the Defendant.

Eventually Sands was able to obtain the cash register and fled the store. The clerk was able to give a description of the Defendant and his vehicle. Soon after, Twinsburg Officers located Sands' vehicle on I-480 where they chased Sands for about 12 minutes into Cleveland until his car crashed into another vehicle. Sands then tried to run away on foot before being apprehended by the police. The Defendant submitted to a breath test and blew a .025BAC and admitted to smoking crack cocaine. The clerk/victim at the BP sustained minimal injuries and did not require treatment. No one was injured in the crash.

Judge Gippin sentenced Sands to 10 years in prison total, seven years on the Robbery, three years on the Failure to Comply, and six months on the OVI.