

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **30 year sentence for Attempted Aggravated Murder of Police Officers**

(January 22, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that David Jackson, 19, of Rootstown, OH, was sentenced to 30 years in prison after he shot at police officers during a chase.

Walsh said, "It is important to note here that we have had two different convictions in one week on Attempted Aggravated Murder of Police Officers. I have often said, and I will say it again, that we cannot underestimate the service of these officers as they put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of Summit County. It is not the job of an officer to be hit, kicked, spit at, and especially to be shot at. Jackson will be almost 50 years old when he gets out of prison. I hope by then he will have learned that the rules apply to him because anyone willing to shoot at the police is a threat to all of us. It is due to the good work of these officers that he is now in prison and away from society."

Specifically, Jackson was sentenced to 10 years each on two counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Police Officer, seven years on firearm specifications, three years for Failure to Comply (all to run consecutive), and one year for Having a Weapon Under Disability, one year for Carrying a Concealed Weapon, one year for Obstructing Official Business, one year for Resisting Arrest (to run concurrent). Two Felonious Assault charges were merged for purposes of sentencing. Jackson was found guilty by a jury on January 15, 2009.

On April 13, 2008, the Akron Police Department ran a routine plate check of the defendant's vehicle. He noticed the police's interest in him, and he took off at a high rate of speed. The police chased his car until he bailed out of the car while it was still moving, gun in hand. A foot chase followed as the police chased him through residential backyards and an alley. He emerged into the street on East Cuyahoga Falls Avenue and Berwin.

As the police approached him, he turned around with his gun and fired at one officer, 15 feet away, who slid to avoid the shot. The chase continued and the defendant got around a corner. When the police turned the corner of East Cuyahoga Falls Avenue and North Main Street, the defendant turned again, and fired twice at two officers about 120 feet away, again missing the officers, but penetrating the wall of a business. The defendant ran again, and was out of view once more. The police spotted him again on Elmo. He threw the weapon down, got on the ground, but refused to comply further. It took several officers and a Taser to get him under control.