

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

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### **Guilty verdict for man who attacked and tried to kill Akron officer**

(July 29, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that Donte Sales, 28, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury today of Aggravated Robbery, Attempted Murder, and Felonious Assault, all felonies of the first degree. He was found not guilty of Aggravated Menacing, a misdemeanor.

Sales' Repeat Violent Offender Specification hearing and sentencing will be August 26, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in Judge Stormer's court. The specification is based on Sales' prior convictions for Aggravated Robbery and Attempted Felonious Assault.

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.