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NEWS
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**18 Year Old Sentenced to 14 Years for
Felonious Assault on a Police Officer**

(Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Earl Jeffery McMorrow, 18, of Barberton was sentenced to 14 years in prison by Judge Judith Hunter after pleading guilty on April 30, 2009 to Felonious Assault on a Police Officer among other charges. The judge also ordered that McMorrow's Drivers License be suspended for 32 years.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "We are fortunate that Summit County didn't lose another officer by the actions of the defendant. McMorrow's behavior is inexcusable, and I am pleased with the sentencing. The message is strong: Our police are there to protect us and assaulting an officer in any way will not be tolerated."

McMorrow also pleaded guilty on April 30, to Aggravated Vehicular Assault, Failure to Comply, Resisting Arrest, Breaking and Entering, Receiving Stolen Property, and Driving Under the Influence.

At the time of his sentencing, Judge Hunter commented that the defendant would not be eligible to drive until he is 50 years old.

McMorrow went on a crime spree on February 10, 2009, breaking into a garage, stealing a truck, then joy riding in the stolen truck while getting high on prescription drugs, marijuana, and cocaine.

Barberton police tracked down McMorrow and pulled him over. During his joy ride he picked up three other passengers. After he was pulled over, McMorrow appeared to comply with the police while his friends got out of the car and got down on the ground. However, when Officer Watson approached the driver's side, McMorrow threw the car into drive and began to flee. In attempting to stop the truck, Watson became trapped on the truck's running board. McMorrow then drove the truck over a snow bank, between a tree and an apartment building, leaving Officer Watson trapped between the truck and gas meters where he was suspended in mid air.

Watson was able to taser McMorrow, even though he could not feel his legs, and McMorrow was taken into custody. Emergency crews were called. Broken gas meters

caused a gas leak and police were fearful of an explosion. The apartment building was evacuated and Officer Watson was removed by the fire department and transported to the hospital. He suffered a broken pelvis and was unable to work for several months.

A blood draw revealed McMorrow was under the influence of cocaine, marijuana and prescriptions drugs.