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NEWS
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**Seven Year Sentence for Repeat Drunk Driver, Thanks to
New DUI Requirements**

(Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Ted Cartmel, 45, of Barberton was sentenced yesterday to seven years' incarceration and a loss of driving privileges for life by Judge McCarty due in part to new breathalyzer requirements for repeat drunk drivers.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "Last year, Ted Cartmel was arrested on his eighth drunk driving charge just days before the new mandatory breath test took effect. The night before his trial on that arrest, he was picked up driving drunk again. This time, he had to take the breath test because of the new law, and he blew a .192. The legal limit is .08."

Cartmel, a habitual drunk driver, has received a total of nine DUIs, refusing to submit to breath tests on the first eight. The change in the law gave him no choice but to submit to a test on the ninth one. Additionally, he was driving with a suspended licence.

Walsh, who authored the change in law which went into effect last September 30th, said "with this law, law enforcement have a new tool to help eliminate habitual drunk drivers from our roadways. Drunk drivers with a previous felony on their record, two DUI convictions in the last six years, or five DUI convictions in the last 20 years, are required to submit to a mandatory breathalyzer test when they are caught. Until now, individuals like Cartmel could refuse a breathalyzer test and withhold key evidence used in their prosecution. That choice is no longer available." Under the new law, if a drunk driver refuses a breathalyzer, they are taken to area hospitals to have their blood drawn or to provide urine.

Walsh continued, "According to national statistics from 2007, despite years of public education Ohio saw an increase in the number of deaths caused by drunk drivers. That same year, nearly 13,000 people were killed nationwide by drunk drivers. With this new law, we have a comprehensive tool for pin pointing exactly how much alcohol is in a driver's system and are, thereby, better equipped to prosecute them. Cartmel might have escaped being held accountable by avoiding the breath test again had it not been for this tougher DUI law."

Senate Bill 17 passed the Ohio House of Representatives on June 10, 2008 and the Ohio Senate on May 10, 2007. The bill was signed by Governor Ted Strickland on June 27, 2008. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Timothy Grendell, strengthened Ohio's DUI laws in a number of ways, including the mandatory breathalyzer provision. Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh authored the mandatory breathalyzer test condition and testified to both the Senate and House about the need for better evidence, i.e., the level of intoxication, when prosecuting DUI cases.