

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

Contact: Laurie Cramer  
(330) 643-2800

### **Man found guilty at second trial**

(Akron, November 20, 2009) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that James Starks, 24, of Akron, was found guilty today by a jury after his second trial for Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree.

Judge Lynne Callahan sentenced Starks to six years in prison. On October 21, 2009, the jury was hung on the charges.

On July 11, 2008, Starks and several friends went to the victim's used car lot on Arlington Road. Starks wanted to purchase a classic car and offered the victim \$3,500. The victim told Starks the cost of the car was \$5,600.

Starks became angry when the victim said, "It's okay, you don't have to buy it if you can't afford it." Starks walked up to the victim and sucker punched him once in the face, breaking his jaw. A witness ran to help the victim as one of Starks' friends also tried to hit the victim. Starks jumped into his car and left with all his friends except the one who tried to hit the victim. That friend ran but dropped his cell phone. The cell phone had a photo with Starks. Both the victim and another witness picked Starks out of a police photo line up. Starks was interviewed but denied ever being at the dealership or knowing his friend.

Starks failed to turn himself in on a warrant and was arrested a year later.