

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man pleads guilty in home invasion that resulted in dog's death

(November 24, 2009, Akron) ...Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that Melvin Prince, 18, of Akron, pled guilty today to charges stemming from the Burglary of the Hixenbaugh family and the beating of their dog.

Prince pled guilty to Burglary, a felony of the second degree, three counts of Grand Theft, felonies of the third degree, Grand Theft, a felony of the fourth degree, two counts of Theft, felonies of the fifth degree, and Cruelty to Animals, a misdemeanor.

Prince will be sentenced by Judge Judith Hunter on December 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m.

In February 2009, Prince and Lewis Napoleon, 22, of Akron, broke into an elderly couple's home. Once inside, the two were greeted by the victims barking five pound, eight-year-old Shih Tzu. The dog was beaten and thrown against a wall.

They ransacked the victim's house, stealing a desktop computer, two shotguns, cash, jewelry, prescription drugs, a checkbook, several collectible German beer steins and liquor bottles. They then stole the victims' pickup truck.

Napoleon is scheduled to stand trial on February 18, 2010. The dog eventually had to be put to sleep due to the extent of her injuries.