

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

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### **Man pleads to Murder after dispute over \$5.00**

(September 22, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Mark Simpson, 45, of Akron, pled guilty yesterday to Murder, with a firearm specification, and one Repeat Violent Offender specification, and was sentenced by Judge Lynne Callahan to a total of 20 years to Life in prison.

On July 1, 2009, at 10:30 p.m., Michael Pittman, 45, of Akron, went to a house on Baird Street, a known drug house, where the two often hung out. When he arrived, Simpson, who was already there, confronted Pittman about \$5.00 he owed him. When Pittman said he did not have the money, Simpson punched him twice and after a brief struggle, the two fell on the coffee table with Pittman on top Simpson. Simpson pulled out a silver .38 caliber handgun and shot Pittman in the chest. Pittman died as a result of his wounds.

Simpson ran out of the house and jumped into a van with a female and left the scene. The female drove Simpson for a short while, but eventually became nervous that he would turn the gun on her. At a stop sign, she put the car in park, started to run, and was able to flag down a nearby ambulance. The Defendant was found minutes later walking down the street and after a chase, was apprehended by police.