

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man guilty in road rage incident

(September 28, 2009, Akron) ...Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Rodney Wright, 44, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury today of Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree.

Wright will be sentenced on October 28, 2009, at 1:00 p.m.

On February 22, 2009, a 42-year-old Middleburg Heights woman was on her way back from an Akron supermarket at the intersection of E. Exchange and Windsor Avenues and stopped at a light. Wright was in a car behind her when he got out of his vehicle and approached her window. She rolled down the window thinking he needed help, when Wright said, “**** you ****, you ain’t going to play him like that.” The victim had no idea what he was talking about. Wright then punched the victim twice in the face. She sped away, but Wright followed her. She eventually was able to lose him.

The victim was visiting a friend in Akron who drove her to the hospital where they called the police. The victim gave the police a description of the defendant, his car, and his plates, which stood out because they were DUI plates. Sgt. David Garro, of the Akron Police Department, ran a search for DUI plates and after receiving a list of 200 possible matches, Sgt. Garro started checking the addresses of each vehicle in Akron until he located the suspect’s vehicle. With that, Sgt. Garro showed the victim Wright’s BMV photo and she positively identified the defendant. The defendant came in for an interview and admitted striking the victim, but claimed self defense.