

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

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### **Man pleads guilty after attacking Norton officer**

(April 19, 2010 Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Tramel Sheppard, 28, of Akron, pled guilty today to Felonious Assault and Aggravated Robbery, both felonies of the first degree, and was sentenced by Judge Lynne Callahan to seven years in prison.

On January 16, 2010, Norton Officer Nick Matheny was driving eastbound on State Road 224 when he saw a car pulling over to the side of the road. He pulled over to see if the driver needed help. The driver was Sheppard, who indicated that he had a flat tire and walked away from the officer. Officer Matheny detected the smell of alcohol and noticed slurred speech, so he asked Sheppard to take a field sobriety test. The Defendant refused and became angry.

Officer Matheny tried to arrest Sheppard when he was attacked by the Defendant, who tried to grab Matheny's gun. While Matheny held onto his gun with both hands, it left him vulnerable to head kicks from Sheppard. Officer Matheny was knocked unconscious for a brief moment and woke up to see Sheppard running across the highway. Officer Matheny ran after Sheppard but collapsed in the grass and was out again for a moment. Fortunately, two witnesses, a man and a wife, stopped to help the officer.

Matheny radioed for help before passing out and within minutes, additional officers arrived. Sheppard was found hiding under a porch on a nearby side street and had to be tazed.