

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Laurie Cramer
(330) 643-2800

Parole Board denies Lagway's release Not up for review again until April 1, 2015

(March 1, 2010, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Ohio Parole Board denied Willie Lagway's request for parole and continued his case to April 1, 2015, when they will again review it for parole.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "This is wonderful news for Willie Lagway's victims and the citizens of Summit County. We stood together against Lagway's release and the Ohio Parole Board heard our concerns. I want to thank everyone for their hard work to keep Lagway in prison, especially his victims, who courageously came out of the dark to speak about his terrifying crimes against them."

Walsh and his victims have been urging the citizens of Summit County to write letters to the Ohio Parole Board asking them not to release Lagway. One of the Lagway's victims also set up an online petition for people to sign named, "keeplagwayinjail."

Background: In February 1983, Willie Lagway went on a five-day crime spree victimizing six women in Summit County. Lagway kidnapped his victims from various locations in Summit County, including the parking decks at area hospitals. All of the victims were robbed and two were raped. Lagway was armed with a knife that he used to threaten the first four victims with their lives if they did not comply with his demands. In his last abduction of two women who were together, he told them he had a gun. Lagway did not just commit these crimes and leave. He terrorized these women for hours, looking at their drivers' licenses to get their addresses, and asking them other personal information.

Lagway was tried and convicted in 1983 by a jury. The case was overturned on appeal and all six victims went through a second trial in 1993. Again, a jury convicted Lagway. For his crimes, the sentencing Judge gave Lagway the maximum possible sentence of 109 to 375 years in prison.