

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Man found guilty of failure to comply, other charges after night club brawl

(May 12, 2010, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Darrion Smith, 20, of Euclid, Ohio, was found guilty by a jury late yesterday afternoon of Failure to Comply with the Order of a Police Officer, a felony of the third degree, Obstruction of Official Business, a felony of the fifth degree, and Reckless Operation, a misdemeanor.

Smith will be sentenced on June 2, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in Judge Paul Gallagher's court.

On December 11, 2009 at around 1:30 a.m., Akron Police Officers who were working security at the Vertigo Night Club on S. Main Street in Akron, broke up a fight inside the club related to comments made by the DJ about a rivalry between Akron and Cleveland residents. As Officers were escorting an injured man outside the club, several shots were fired in the parking lot. APD Officers Drew Reed and Daniel Marks began to chase a suspect, Darrion Smith, and told him to stop. He continued to run and disobeyed orders to stop. Smith got into his Chevy Monte Carlo and Officers caught up to him and told him to stop and turn off the ignition. Smith disobeyed orders again even though the Officers guns were now drawn. Smith put the vehicle in reverse and peeled out almost striking Officer Reed, who had fallen by the front tire of the car. APD Officers called out a partial plate number and Stow Police pulled Smith's vehicle over a few minutes later as the car was traveling North on Route 8.

APD Officer Chris Crockett assisted Stow officers after the vehicle stop and interviewed Smith, who changed his story several times. Gun shot residue tested positive from Smith's hands and was presented as evidence in court, in addition to testimony from officers.