

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

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### **Man Found Guilty of Burning Down His Home**

(January 14, 2011, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Raymond Stewart, 38, of Augusta Lane in Sagamore Hills, was found guilty in a bench trial before Judge Thomas Parker of Aggravated Arson, a first degree felony, Aggravated Arson, a second degree felony, and Insurance Fraud, a third degree felony.

On March 30, 2009, Stewart set his own home on fire. He lived in the house with his two children, six and eight years old. He bought the home in 2006, but had been in foreclosure once and had refinanced the mortgage four times. Each time he refinanced, he increased the amount he owed on the principal.

On the day of the fire, Stewart left with the kids and set it on fire, returning several times to check on its progress. The fire was called in by a neighbor at 11:05 pm.

Sentencing is set for February 15, 2011 at 1:00 pm. Stewart could receive up to 15 years in prison.