

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Duct Tape Sticks Man 10 Years in Prison

(Akron, May 19, 2011) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Charles Smallwood, 40, of Akron, pled guilty to Aggravated Burglary, a first degree felony, and Robbery, a second degree felony, for six years in prison. He was sentenced to an additional four years on two other pending cases for a total ten year sentence.

The victim, who was 91-years-old at the time of the offense, was awakened around 2:30 a.m. on August 5 when two men broke into his house. The burglars put duct tape on one of the windows so there would not be noise when they broke in. The burglars went to the victim's bedroom and pushed him around demanding money. The victim began to yell, at which point they found some money in the pants he had worn that day. They left prior to police arrival.

Smallwood was on community control for a 2009 case for Failure to Comply with a Police Officer, a third degree felony, when he committed this offense. He was also awaiting sentencing on a 2010 case for Breaking and Entering, a fifth degree felony.

The victim could not identify the suspects so DNA was taken from the duct tape on the window. There was a CODIS hit on Charles Smallwood and a buccal swab was obtained. His DNA matched the DNA on the duct tape.

Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh commented that, "The number of uses for duct tape just increased by one – crime solving."