

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Woman pleads to charges related to drunk driving that resulted in death of Richfield woman and her dog

(Akron ... May 6, 2011) Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Jennifer Jilek, 30, of Richfield, pled today to all of the charges contained in the Summit County Grand Jury's Indictment relating to the death of Charlene Kuzda and her dog. Jilek was driving home after a night of drinking and struck and killed Ms. Kuzda while she was walking her dog with her boyfriend.

Jilek pled no contest in Judge Alison McCarty's court to Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, a felony of the second degree, Stopping after an Accident/Hit Skip, a felony of the third degree, and two counts of DUI. Judge McCarty found her guilty of the indicted charges and will sentence her on June 3, at 2:00 p.m. Jilek faces a maximum of 13 years in prison.

On February 15, 2011, at 9:15 p.m., Jilek was driving home from a bar and hit 37 year-old Charlene Kuzda and her dog as they were walking down Richlawn Drive in Richfield, Ohio. Charlene and her chocolate Labrador retriever were killed instantly. Ms. Kuzda's boyfriend was walking with her and witnessed the accident. He was not injured. Jilek did not stop after the accident and drove to a home down the street. The Richfield police immediately discovered Jilek's car, which had a smashed windshield, parked in her driveway. Jilek was found passed out at the bottom of a flight of stairs. Subsequent blood testing determined she had over a .30 level of alcohol in her blood, more than four times the legal limit.