



**NEWS**  
**For Immediate Release:**  
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**CONTACT: Faye Nicholson**  
**Phone: (330) 643-8386**

### **Tyrone Benford Sentenced to Life in Prison**

**AKRON, OHIO – December 15, 2014** – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Paul Gallagher sentenced Tyrone Benford, 42, of Ira Avenue in Akron, to life in prison for the beating death of 53-year old Lori Patch. Benford will be eligible for a parole hearing after serving 15 years in prison.

Benford pleaded guilty to:

- Two counts of Murder, a special felony
- Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree
- Breaking and Entering, a felony of the fifth degree

On October 4, 2013, Lori Patch was found dead behind a dumpster located on 207 E. South Street. Shortly after the victim was found officers responded to a break-in at a Mosque, located on 1147 Old Main Street, in Akron. Police officers and K-9 entered the Mosque and found Benford inside. When Benford was taken outside of the Mosque police discovered blood on his shoes. DNA testing later revealed that the blood belonged to the victim.

The victim died from massive blunt force trauma to her face, head and neck. At the time of the murder, the victim was homeless and living in the area of South Street.

The investigation did not reveal Benford's motivation for the killing.