

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Jury finds two guilty of multiple drug offenses

(Akron, March 24, 2011) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that late Wednesday evening, March 23, a jury found two defendants guilty of multiple drug-related charges.

Symphone Smith, 20, of Akron, was found guilty of two counts of Possession of Cocaine and one count of Trafficking in Cocaine, felonies of the second degree; Trafficking in Cocaine and Tampering with Records, felonies of the third degree; and Possession of Criminal Tools, a felony of the fifth degree.

Darren Tomlinson, 25, also of Akron, was found guilty of Possession of Cocaine, a felony of the second degree, three counts of Having Weapons Under Disability, a felony of the third degree, Possession of Cocaine, a felony of the fifth degree and a misdemeanor Possession of Criminal Tools. The defendant's money and items gained due to illegal actions, \$15,837 and three flat-screen televisions, were seized and forfeited. Judge Alison McCarty revoked both bonds, and sentencing was set for April 7th at 11:00 am.

On August 6, 2010, the Akron Police Department drug unit conducted surveillance on a known drug house. Smith was observed leaving the house and was arrested after being stopped due to an outstanding warrant for a theft offense. She was placed into a wagon for transport to the jail. Upon arrival, an officer noticed a baggie and crack crumbs in the compartment where Smith was sitting. The officer testified that she thoroughly inspected the area where Smith was before she put her in the compartment.

Tomlinson was observed taking a garbage bag and putting it into an outside trash container. Inside the garbage bag were three guns, crack cocaine, and powder cocaine. Also found was drug paraphernalia and \$15,000 cash inside the house. Tomlinson was not allowed to have guns due to a prior conviction for having crack cocaine.