



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
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Akron Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Numerous Crimes

AKRON, Ohio (date) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Christine Croce sentenced Kevin Blanchard, 53, of Bellewood Avenue in Akron, to ten years in prison for numerous burglaries dating back 20 years.

On February 11, 2020, Blanchard pled guilty to the following charges:

- Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity (RICO) – a felony of the 1st degree
- Aggravated Theft – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Grand Theft – a felony of the 4th degree
- Breaking & Entering – a felony of the 5th degree

Between August 1999 and September 2002, Blanchard, along with six other accomplices, broke into several Summit County businesses. The break-ins were similar, with security system and telephone lines cut and a variety of items stolen.

In March of 2002, investigators got a break in the case when one of the defendants reached out to law enforcement while in prison on unrelated charges. Officers from several agencies interviewed all seven suspects, who admitted to their involvement in the crime ring. Kevin Blanchard also admitted to being the ring leader of the group. Investigators found several of the stolen items on property owned by the suspects.

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After the initial charges, Kevin Blanchard was on house arrest when he removed his ankle bracelet monitor and was able to elude law enforcement until he was picked up in 2019.

The cases against the other defendants have since been resolved.