



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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Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Taking Money from “Shop With A Cop” Program

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, October 26, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Michael Simmons, 42, of Stow, pled guilty in connection with money stolen from a local “Shop With A Cop” program.

Simmons pled guilty to the following charge:

- Grand Theft – a felony of the 4th degree

Simmons, an officer with the Richfield Police Department since 1999, oversaw the department’s “Shop With A Cop” program since its inception in 2003. In January of 2016, Richfield’s Chief of Police notified the Ohio Attorney General’s Office after he became aware of unauthorized financial transactions with the program. Agents with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation discovered a total of \$26,709.02 was missing from the “Shop With A Cop” account.

Investigators say Simmons used the money to buy several items including tickets to sporting events, electronics, clothing, tools, and gift cards for his personal use.

The “Shop With A Cop” program helps financially disadvantaged families by taking children on a shopping trip with law enforcement each holiday season.

Summit Count Common Pleas Court Judge Alison McCarty is scheduled to sentence Simmons on December 1, 2016 at 9am.