

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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2nd Man Convicted in Rape Case

(October 6, 2014... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that late Friday, a jury found Michael T. Person, 34, of College Street in Barberton, guilty of:

- Rape, a felony of the first degree
- Two counts of Complicity to Commit Rape, felonies of the first degree
- Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree
- Kidnapping, a felony of the first degree

On February 2, 2014, Deandra Thomas went to Person's house to buy drugs. Just before Thomas arrived, Person assaulted the victim and burned her with a cigarette. When Thomas got there, Person began to look for drugs and told Thomas to rape the victim; which he did, twice. Thomas then punched the victim in the face causing a severe injury to the victim's right eye. After Thomas left, Person raped the victim. The victim was terrified to leave Person's home out of fear he would attack her again.

Based on these charges, the Court could sentence the Defendant to a total of 52 years in prison. Because the Defendant had previously committed and been convicted of another sex offense, the Court will hold a hearing on October 10, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. to determine whether the Defendant is a Sexually Violent Predator. If the Court finds that the Defendant is a Sexual Violent Predator, the Court would have the option of imposing a life sentence.

Judge Alison McCarty will sentence Person on Friday, October 10, 2014 at 1:30p.m.