



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT: James Pollack

Phone: (330) 604-2739

[pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

Facebook: SummitCountyProsecutorOffice

Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh

Wednesday, July 08, 2015

### **Akron Police Officer Found to Use Justifiable Force in Deadly Shooting**

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, July 08, 2015) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that an Akron Police Officer was justified in connection with the November 3, 2014 deadly shooting of Raupheal S. Thomas.

In the early evening hours of November 3, 2014, Raupheal S. Thomas was shot and killed after he resisted, fought with, and fired his gun at an Akron Police Officer. The autopsy report showed Mr. Thomas, who was 6'4" and weighed 265 pounds, was under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the incident.

The investigation revealed the following:

- Officers responded to reports of suspicious activity when they encountered two men, one of which was Mr. Thomas.
- Mr. Thomas became violent with officers.
- Officers repeatedly warned Mr. Thomas to comply.
- Before using deadly force, the officer fired a Taser in an attempt to subdue Mr. Thomas. The Taser did not stop Mr. Thomas.
- During the struggle, Mr. Thomas fired his gun towards the head of an Officer.
- Mr. Thomas' DNA was on the trigger of his weapon.

(continued on next page)

- Mr. Thomas was a convicted felon illegally possessing a weapon.
- After firing at the officer, Mr. Thomas broke free and ran in the street of a residential neighborhood with a loaded gun in his possession.
- Two shots were fired, striking Mr. Thomas in his right side and torso.
- Mr. Thomas' gun was found on the ground next to him after he was shot.

“It is clear from our investigation that the police officer, having barely escaped a gunshot to his head, reasonably feared for his life, the safety of his fellow officers, and residents of the neighborhood,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Based on all the evidence, the officer involved acted within his authority and was legally justified when he used deadly force against Mr. Thomas.”